

The Orchadian

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Dendrobium Brimbank Sparkler Photo. by Peter Adams at The 2015 Kempsey Speciosum Spectacular



The Orchadian

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Weekend	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st Week		Townsville		Beenleigh	Toowoomba Victoria
2 nd Week	Western Australia	Illawarra Kabi	Central Coast Geelong	Mackay & District	
Far North Coast (3 rd Saturday)	3 rd Week	Warringah		Macarthur & District	Sydney
Mid-North Coast (3 rd Sunday)	4 th Week	South Australia	Melbourne - Suburbs	Newcastle	

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Products available to purchase include ANOS awards CDs, Hybrid Checklist and sets of prints of J.J. Riley's water colour drawings of Australian orchids.

Details are available to view on the website.

Contact the treasurer with regard to availability and to arrange payment.

ANOS Inc. Membership

Personal membership is achieved by a subscription to *The Orchadian*.

Members receive four issues a year and have full voting rights at the AGM which will be held at the 2016 conference at Kempsey.

We have a team of people who are well qualified, some at international level in preparing and producing *The Orchadian*, and new and past contributors are encouraged to support the efforts that Council and editorial assistants are making to develop the journal further. There are some changes in format. The list of photos as a part of contents is replaced by photographic credits within the articles, as in other orchid publications. A brief biography or association is included for contributors of major articles.

The content is largely governed by the nature and types of articles and the accompanying photographs submitted. This issue contains a number of articles on producing hybrids, with exciting contributions from breeders who have not previously written about their work. There are also a number of show reports and smaller articles about species (Gerry Walsh, Peter Adams) and aspects of culture (Neville Lee). Geoff Beilby has a report of a recent excursion to Kangaroo Island where terrestrials may be seen in relatively undisturbed habitat. Articles on species and hybrids have been peer reviewed.

Cool Growing *Dendrobium* Hybrids

The articles on hybrids in this issue will be especially useful for judges in appreciating the species composition of hybrids that they assess on the benches. Michael Drobski and Mark Daniels have both registered successful hybrids and are involved in promising breeding programmes. Sheryl Lawson gives an overview of breeding of *Dendrocoryne* hybrids with a focus on the influence of particular species, including the work of early and some later hybridists. There are other key breeders that we would like to feature in future issues. I recall the early interest in *D. Sunglow* breeding to provide yellow/orange colour, and the frustration of very slow growing plants. Under my conditions, they gained and lost one stem per year, and were eventually discarded.

A workshop discussion at the first ANOS conference in Wollongong in 1990 focussed on Ray Hills' cross of *D. Avril's Gold* (*D. Aussie Child* x *D. speciosum*), which was later registered

Peter Adams

by Ray Clement. This was near the start of breeding for strong yellow/orange hybrids, which developed best in New South Wales. The seedlings of *D. Avril's Gold* were variable, with mixed results for quality, depending on the *D. speciosum* parent used, but some strong yellow flowers with deep purple spots and patches came through, and several breeders have continued *speciosum*-dominant colourful lines. They are often very slow to grow and flower in the early stages, but faster in northern states where the growing season is longer. There has been some concern about continued backcrossing to *D. speciosum* creating similar slow growing plants that become too large. This might still eventuate as the percentage of *D. speciosum* increases in some hybrids, however it is the only cool growing species that provides long racemes and very high flower counts.

The *D. tetragonum* influenced hybrids, along with *D. fleckeri*, have been used by a number of breeders e.g. Reg Sheen and Wayne Turville. These produce bright colours, an important current selling point for the general public that now represent the majority of orchid sales. Some commercially oriented breeders have stated that they don't care about shape, presentation or quality awards, but our readers want more than that, and many *D. tetragonum* hybrids have not attracted high numbers of awards due to poor presentation. It is almost unfashionable to attempt to breed a pastel *kingianum*-style hybrid although they can offer high quality shape and good floral display with use of the right parents. Unfortunately, growing and exhibiting *D. kingianum* and its hybrids has declined in the past two decades. With my own breeding of *kingianum*-style cool growing hybrids, for example the Yarra series, I have used line bred awarded *D. kingianum* plants crossed with outstanding cool growing hybrids with some good results. Influences of particular species are critical, hence *D. tetragonum* is avoided in these hybrids as shape, presentation and growth rate are adversely influenced. Likewise the breeders of *speciosum*-style hybrids generally avoid using *D. kingianum* as it is dominant for colour, with likely loss of yellow/orange.

It is worth looking at the percentage compo-

sition of species in hybrids when evaluating the results of breeding. In general, and depending on the contribution of other species, 15-20% of *D. tetragonum* is needed to provide significant colour, and this will increase as the percentage increases to 40%. *Dendrobium* Aussie Ira (*D. Ellen* x *D. tetragonum*), with 75% *D. tetragonum* shows intense colour but the presentation suffers, with drooping, very starry flower shapes and long peduncles. *Dendrobium fleckeri* expresses an influence when it is present at 15-50%, increasing with the percentage. Above 40% the hairy fringed labellum and *fleckeri* shape may be exposed, and higher percentages can lead to plants becoming spindly and slow growing with poor flower count.

With increasing percentages of *Dendrobium kingianum*, hybrid flowers can become very rounded with pastel mauve and white dominating, and often an attractive purple pepper spotting on a large labellum e.g. *D. Yarra Quartz*. If *D. fleckeri* is significant in the composition, a wide range of colours can be produced e.g. *D. David Adams* (*D. Yondi* x *D. Eureka*) and its progeny.

***Sarcochilus* Hybrids**

The trends are well surveyed in Roslyn Capell's review of some 2015 *Sarcochilus* shows. It is still unclear if many of these hybrids with colour-influencing smaller twig epiphyte species will develop into large robust plants like *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii*, and whether colour will be retained when they are crossed back to these species to increase vigour. As the generation times are short in comparison with other hybrids, it should not take long to find out.

The general principles of breeding are becoming clearer in these articles, but there will always be some mysterious secrets that remain with the breeders and their art. If you are considering hybridizing, there is no need to obtain all the parents used by others. Discussions with other breeders and discovering a few select and useful parents of your own, is likely to result in new innovations that will satisfy you and other growers. That process will take a good 20 – 30 years, so it might be best to start soon.



D. Yarra Quartz 'Frank Lowe'
(*D. Les Adams* x *D. Yondi*),
a *D. kingianum* style hybrid
Photo. Peter Adams



D. Sunglow 'About Time'
Photo. Peter Adams

President's Report

Readers will recall the theft from Ted and Barbara Gregory of their plant of *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Dreamtime'. Ross Harvey from Cedarvale Orchids phoned me recently to tell me that he had obtained a division of this plant some time ago from Ted and Barb and had used it in his breeding programme. It has been quite useful for Cedarvale Orchids in their great work. My warning of taking precautions with valuable native orchids still stands.

ANOS Council have devoted most of their time with the ongoing production of *The Orchadian*, I have received many compliments for the Dec. 2015 issue. A lot of work and effort went into producing this 'bumper' issue which, while monumental, cannot be sustained as every extra page comes at a cost both in printing and postage. I congratulate and thank Peter Adams for his work, and of course thank you to native orchid enthusiasts who take the time and effort to write and submit articles. We hope to soon find a combination of good quality and sustainable cost in the printing of *The Orchadian*.

On a personal note, Dave Mitten, who I have known for many years, passed away recently. Dave was an amateur hybridist, and together with the late Jack McMillan produced some of the hybrids for Down Under Native Orchids in its early days. Dave was probably best known for breeding *Dendrobium kingianum* 'Big Foot' which is not a *D. kingianum* but is an attractive hybrid that should not be used in the line breeding of *D. kingianum*. Henry Wilson and I spent some time in recent months with Dave, and one could see his passion for his native orchids. Even as he became frail, Dave would talk about his experiences on the Gloucester Buckets, and that magical place in the Gloucester area that he referred to as 'The Garden of Eden' where he found a beautiful alba form of *D. speciosum* var. *hillii*.

The Eighth ANOS Conference draws ever near and it is reassuring to hear John Zietsch, Conference Chairman, give his progress reports. What is pleasing is that there is a steady increase in people volunteering to assist, and I am sure John would appreciate further offers of help. This

conference is a great opportunity for families on a budget to come because of on-site camping and low registration rates.

Breeding Yellow *Sarcochilus*

In recent years here have been two main breeders of yellow *Sarcochilus* hybrids. The late Neville Roper used hybrids that originated from the Numinbah Valley forms of *S. hartmannii* such as 'Red Snow', and found that they had recessive albinistic qualities. Two of his notable yellow hybrids, both registered by Neville, are *S. Amber* (*S. Fizzy Dove* x *S. Topaz*) in 2009 and *S. Parma* (*S. Topaz* x *S. Roberta*) in 2012.

David Butler was interested in continuing to use *S. hirticalcar* hybrids as parents and created *S. Galaxy* (*S. Misty* x *S. hartmannii*). Combining the lines from these two breeders has allowed yellow to come through, with *S. spathulatus* in the background of *S. Amber*, and *S. hirticalcar* and *S. dilatatus* in the background of *S. Galaxy*. A diverse genetic pool is now being used and we are starting to see the results with *S. Amber Star* (*S. Galaxy* x *S. Amber*, registered D. Butler 11/2015) and *S. Sundaani's Galaxy* (*S. Galaxy* x *S. Parma*, registered P. Hockey 2014). I believe this is just the start of further great yellow hybrids as the mixing of these two lines has the potential of improving the texture, intensity of colour, size, longevity of flowering and greater heat tolerance.

Please advance your plans for attending the ANOS conference at Kempsey in September.

Tony Clarke



Sarcochilus Sundaani's Galaxy

Aspects of Breeding Cool Growing Australian *Dendrobium* Hybrids

Sheryl Lawson

What are cool growing Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids, and how are they different from hot/cold hybrids? The common understanding is that hot/cold hybrids contain *Dendrobium bigibbum* (any variety), an Australian species which is in Section *Phalaenanthæ* of *Dendrobium*. Many hot/cold hybrids now contain only a very small percentage of this species in their background after several generations, but are still considered as hot/colds. The cool growing Australian hybrids generally come from section *Dendrocoryne*, an almost purely Australian section, where there are 12 species - *D. speciosum*, *D. kingianum*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. fleckeri*, *D. jonesii*, *D. gracili-caule*, *D. falcorostrum*, *D. aemulum*, *D. adae*, *D. moorei*, *D. callitrophilum* and *D. finniganense*. The first four species are the mainstay of breeding lines, with *D. speciosum*, particularly var. *curvicaule*, var. *grandiflorum* to a lesser extent, and now inter-variatal seedlings being used repeatedly down the breeding lines.

Approaches to Breeding

Breeding is part science with good luck, patience, observation and good record keeping thrown in. The goals of breeding are very individual, and may differ between commercial and hobbyist growers. Factors to consider in quality breeding include the features of both the flowers and the plants. For the plants, strong peduncles to hold the flowers out from the foliage, multiple racemes to increase the overall flower count, high flower counts and relatively compact and neatly shaped plants are some considerations. For the flower itself, filled in shapes of flowers are not critical, but symmetry, striking crisp colours, texture, and good presentation of each individual flower (flowers holding themselves up and presenting to the viewer), and strong racemes are important. Some breeders are looking for specific colours or colour combinations in their seedlings.

Can the results of crossings be predicted? Not clearly. In practice, breeders look carefully at their results to identify parents that have been dominant in transmitting the features they are looking for, such as colour and shape of flowers. Plants can also be identified that are low in dominance in certain features such as colour, and this can be

equally important when planning breeding lines. This is a trial and error process. In practice, the plant that has the features that you wish to achieve most strongly is usually chosen to carry the pod.

The Science of Hybridizing

During hybridization, genetic material from both parents is combined in different ways, hence each seedling is unique, like children. The seedlings may resemble one or other of the parents more strongly, or be more of a mixture of both, and features from several generations back may re-emerge. End results are far more complex than the final mix of genes (genotype), as the final appearance (phenotype) of seedlings also depends on which parts of genes are switched on or off. The study of this complex process is called epigenetics. Another growing research field is functional genomics, which is the study of what genes do and how. The huge international cut flower industry is driving research to understand how genetic structures determine plant growth, floral development, flowering, fragrance and colour, as the ability to understand and control these processes is clearly commercially beneficial. It is established, for example, that colour involves multiple genes, including colour-modifying genes. Yellow-orange colours involve carotenoids and chlorophyll pigments. Red/purple/brown colours are formed by different compounds (anthocyanins and pelargonidin glycosides).

Breeding Features of *Dendrocoryne* Species

Dendrobium speciosum, as previously mentioned, is a mainstay of breeding, because of the size, texture, colour and number of flowers on strong peduncles which come through strongly in the progeny. The large stems and slowness of growth and flowering are less positive features for hybrids. *Dendrobium fleckeri* has introduced strong yellow-orange colouration to the tepals, but at the expense of plant vigour and reduced flower count if it is reintroduced after several generations, so this is not usually done. *Dendrobium tetragonum*, particularly var. *giganteum* which was the commonest variety used early on, introduces strong red/purple and yellow colouration, increased size of flowers, and repeat flowering, but weak and long peduncles can lead to less

desirable features such as droopy flowers with thin segments, so it also is not usually reintroduced in advanced hybrids. *Dendrobium kingianum* can introduce mauve/purple colours with a compact plant shape and multi-racemes.

Early Primary Hybrids and Hybridists

The earliest named hybrid was *D. X delicatum*, described from a naturally occurring plant of *D. kingianum* x *D. speciosum* by the botanist F.M. Bailey in 1884. This hybrid, mainly man-made crosses, has been very popular with growers, vigorous in growth and flowering, and easy to propagate by division or through aerial growths (keikis). In the past it was dominant on show benches in the absence of availability of many hybrids.



D. Delicatum 'Purple'. Photo. Peter Adams

Bert Overall registered *D. Bardo Rose* (*D. falcorostrum* x *D. kingianum*) in 1961. Again it was a very successful and popular hybrid with incredible primary hybrid vigour, and many orchid growers maintained huge floriferous specimen plants. They were easy to divide and share, and often threw multiple aerial growths. It has 26 direct hybrid progeny. *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon (*D. speciosum* x *D. tetragonum*) was bred by Ira Butler and registered by Noel Grundon in 1977. In the original crossing *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* was used. Plants were vigorous and generally yellow to gold with various spotting of purple. Because of the large size of the flowers, stems generally tended to be pendulous and flowers somewhat droopy, but specimens were spectacular and they were highly sought after.

It has 66 direct hybrid progeny. In contrast with *D. Bardo Rose*, plant division could be fatal, and sudden death of large plants did occur.

Bill and Jean Cannons registered *D. Hastings* (*D. kingianum* x *D. fleckeri*) in 1970 with 17 direct hybrid progeny subsequently made, then *D. Wonga* (*D. speciosum* x *D. Hastings*) in 1979 with 18 direct hybrid progeny.

Dendrobium Sunglow (*D. speciosum* x *D. fleckeri*) was made by Roger Bedford and registered by David Cannon (Patron of ANOS Inc. who has registered 55 hybrids) in 1980. This was a key hybrid parent that introduced vivid yellow-orange colouration to breeding lines. Another early primary was *D. Peter* (*D. fleckeri* x *D. falcorostrum*), which was registered by Roger Bedford in 1972 and has 30 hybrid progeny, hence the presence of *D. falcorostrum* in the background of a lot of hybrids. *Dendrobium* Eureka (*D. fleckeri* x *D. jonesii*) was made by W. And J. Cannons and registered by David Cannon in 1980, and has 41 hybrid progeny, which explains the presence of *D. jonesii* in the background of many hybrids.

Dendrobium speciosum in Hybrid Breeding

Hybrids with a high percentage of *Dendrobium speciosum* in their background are very popular. The plants are generally medium to large when fully grown, and the best seedlings have long racemes with high flower count. Varied colours have been introduced through the use of *D. tetragonum* and *D. fleckeri* particularly, leading to striking colour combinations. These hybrids have progressed several generations. Crossing back to *D. speciosum* down the breeding lines is an important breeding strategy. Breeders are continuing to experiment to increase the amount of colour, particularly purple, in these lines.

An example of this approach is *D. Avril's Gold*, a fifth generation hybrid made by Ray Hill and registered by Ray Clement in 1998. The species composition is *D. speciosum* 75%, *D. tetragonum* 12.5%, *D. falcorostrum* 6.3% and *D. fleckeri* 6.3%. It has produced a wide range of quality of seedlings, with some awarded plants including 'Jarrah' AM/ANOS 2014 and 'Wingham' HCC/ANOS 2003. Unfortunately it has generally

been a slow grower and difficult to thrive (pers. comm. Ray Clement), as have been some of its progeny. It has been crossed back to *D. speciosum* to make *D. Cosmic Gold*, registered by David Butler in 2009. The seedling *D. Cosmic Gold* 'Sandy' received AM/ANOS in 2014. There are at least 8 registered hybrids using *D. Avril's Gold* as a parent. *Dendrobium* Midas Touch (*D. Avril's Gold* x *D. Yondi Tina*) was registered in 2008 by D.F. Butler. This again has a predominance of *D. speciosum* at 50%, *D. tetragonum* 18.8%, *D. falcorostrum* 15.6%, *D. fleckeri* 9.4%, *D. jonesii* 3.1% and *D. kingianum* 3.1%. This cross has two ANOS awarded seedlings - 'D3' HCC/ANOS in 2011 and 'Oscar' AM/ANOS in 2010.

Dendrobium Kayla (*D. Lynette Banks* x *D. Tweed*) was registered by Colin Brandon in 1995, and contains *D. speciosum* 37.5%, *D. fleckeri* 37.5%, *D. falcorostrum* 12.5%, and *D. jonesii* 12.5%. This was crossed back to *D. speciosum* by DUNO and registered in 2007 as *D. Dunokayla*. It raises the *D. speciosum* contribution higher to 68.8%, with *D. fleckeri* 18.8%, *D. falcorostrum* 6.3% and *D. jonesii* 6.3%. There is one ANOS award - *D. Dunokayla* 'Longlast' HCC/ANOS/2004. *Dendrobium* Dunokayla has been used as a direct parent for at least 8 further hybrids which all have a majority *D. speciosum* background - *D. Dingadee* and *D. Bandon Grove* (see Wayne Perrin's article in *The Orchadian* Dec. 2015), and three Brimbank hybrids registered by Michael Droboski in 2015 (see further in this Journal). Hybrids can be crossed back to *D. speciosum*, or two advanced hybrids can be crossed together.

Interesting results have been achieved by the Australian Orchid Nursery in their series of *D. Australian Artist* (*D. speciosum* x *D. Cobber*) which contains *D. speciosum* 56.3%, *D. kingianum* 20.3%, *D. tetragonum* 10.9%, *D. falcorostrum* 6.3% and *D. fleckeri* 6.3%. This was originally registered by AON in 2004 and this cross has been repeated 14 times using different parents, with quite variable colour results, and 2 HCC/AOC awards so far. The seedlings are vigorous growers. It has been a very popular cross, and demonstrates that using different seedlings for each parent creates different results.

Dendrobium Jesmond Gem (*D. Yondi* x *D.*

speciosum) was originally registered by John Purvis in 1987 and contains *D. speciosum* 50%, *D. kingianum* 25%, *D. fleckeri* 12.5%, and *D. jonesii* 12.5%. It was remade in 1990 by Peter Adams using superior parents *D. Yondi* '1368' x *D. speciosum* 'Windermere', with a notable improvement in quality. It was a highly awarded cross in Victoria, including 'Olive Adams' FCC/AOC 2004 and 'Apricot Pie' FCC/AOC 2014, three Grand Champions and five HCC/AOC. Mature plants have tall canes that are thinner than *D. speciosum*, with strong erect racemes and well presented flowers.

***Dendrobium tetragonum* and *Dendrobium kingianum* in Hybrid Breeding**

Dendrobium Zip (*D. Ku-ring-gai* x *D. kingianum*) was registered in 1987 by W. Skillicorn. It contains *D. kingianum* 62.5%, *D. tetragonum* 25%, and *D. speciosum* 12.5%. The plant and flower shape is heavily influenced by the dominant species. The spectacular colour combination with purple splash on the tepal edges and a solid purple labellum comes from the *D. tetragonum* influence. The plants are compact and floriferous. This parent has been a major influence in subsequent breeding, and there are at least 42 direct progeny. Surprisingly, there were no ANOS or AOC awards for this cross. It was subsequently crossed with *D. Red River* to make *D. Vivid* (*D. kingianum* 43.8%, *D. tetragonum* 25% *D. fleckeri* 12.5%, *D. speciosum* 12.5% and *D. falcorostrum* 6.3%) by Neil Finch (a prolific and successful breeder, and the original owner of DUNO) in 1994. It has 18 direct progeny.

Dendrobium Victorian Flare (*D. kingianum* x *D. Rutherford Blushing Bride*) is another subsequent hybrid showing the same splash colour effect. It contains *D. kingianum* 84.4%, *D. speciosum* 9.4%, and *D. tetragonum* 6.3%. Again the *D. kingianum* flower shape and plant style is dominant. It was awarded the Gold Ira Butler Trophy in 2008. The seedling 'Solid Violet Lip' received a HCC from ANOS in 2008.

Dendrobium Duno Vivspot (registered 1998) and *D. Tyabb* (registered 2002), which both contain *D. Zip* two generations back, are hybrids with a similar colour combination, showing the dominance of the transmission of colour features.



D. Midas Touch 'Patrick' Photo. Peter Adams



D. Zip 'JMCM' Photo. Callyn Farrell



D. David Adams Photo. Peter Adams

Dendrobium Flinders x *D. Australian Rhubarb Pie*, as yet unregistered, shows further promise of increasing the amount of purple colour in a similar style, and again shows the influence of *D. Zip* two generations back. A seedling won Grand Champion at Dandenong Spring Show in 2015. The cross contains *D. kingianum* 41.5%, *D. tetragonum* 15.6%, *D. speciosum* 11.8%, *D. fleckeri* 12.5%, *D. falcorostrum* 15.6% and *D. adae* 3.2%. The *D. kingianum* shape is dominant, but the *D. tetragonum* contributes the solid purple tips. Further seedlings will flower this season.



D. Duno Vivspot 'Jarrah' Photo. Peter Adams



D. Flinders 'Grant Garrett' x *Rhubarb Pie*
Photo. Peter Adams

Dendrobium Yondi (*D. kingianum* x *D. Eureka*) is an early cross from 1982, registered by Syd Batchelor, which contains *D. kingianum* 50%, *D. jonesii* 25% and *D. fleckeri* 25%. There are 21 progeny, including *D. David Adams* (*D. Yondi* x *D. Eureka*), registered 2003 by P. & S. Adams. This cross contains *D. fleckeri* 37.5%, *D. jonesii* 37.5% and *D. kingianum* 25%. Flowers are variously white-yellow-mauve, green and brick

red, sometimes 3 colours on one flower, demonstrating what can happen when the dominant *D. speciosum* and *D. tetragonum* are absent, allowing the colours of *D. kingianum* and *D. fleckeri* to emerge. The seedlings tended to have somewhat leggy stems due to the high *D. fleckeri* component.

D. Les Adams (*D. kingianum* x *D. Gracious Cascades*) was registered in 2003 by P. & S. Adams. It contains *D. kingianum* 50%, *D. speciosum* 37.5%, and *D. gracilicaule* 12.5%. The predominance of *D. kingianum* shortened the stems, which can be quite long and difficult to control in *D. Gracious Cascades* due to the influence of *D. gracilicaule* and *D. speciosum*.

Complex Mixed Hybrids

Advanced hybrids can have a very complex background with multiple species in their background. *Dendrobium Hunter Titanium* registered by Callyn Farrell in 2015, for example, contains *D. fleckeri* 31.25%, *D. speciosum* 31.25%, *D. tetragonum* 12.5%, *D. kingianum* 9.35%, *D. falcorostrum* 6.25%, *D. jonesii* 6.25%, and *D. gracilicaule* 3.15% (approximately!). The seedlings have a very heavy texture, with no clear dominance of one species in the flower.

Dendrobium Tangeloats was registered by DUNO in 2007. The dominant species is *D. fleckeri* at 43.8%, with *D. falcorostrum* 25%, *D. tetragonum* 12.5%, *D. speciosum* 12.5%, and *D. gracilicaule* 6.3%. *Dendrobium fleckeri* emerges strongly in the orange colour of the flowers and the white hairs on the labellum, features of the species not often seen in the hybrids which usually do not have such a high percentage of *D. fleckeri*.

Remakes

Remaking an early hybrid using superior parentage is a strategy for improving hybrid quality. The best seedlings can then be used to make further advanced hybrids, again looking for improved quality. A number of breeders have remade *D. Delicatum* using line bred parents such as deep purple *D. kingianum*, particularly looking for purple/red seedlings, with some success. Other examples are mentioned above.

Conclusion

Since the first primary hybrids were made within section *Dendrocoryne*, many generations of hybrids have been flowered. There are four main species dominating the process – *D. speciosum*, *D. tetragonum*, *D. fleckeri* and *D. kingianum*, each with particular desirable characteristics that can emerge depending on the background of the hybrid. Recombination of these plants in different sequences can produce wide variability in plant and flower characteristics.

Remaking of old hybrids with line bred species is also a promising approach. The search for new and novel colours, particularly purple, orange and red, continues. Hybrid seedlings remain a popular purchase for growers, with good reason. There may be more surprises in store for the future.

Reference: *Dendrobium* hybrid checklist:

www.anos.com.au/MSG/index.php/dendrobiums

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D. Tangeloats Photo. Callyn Farrell



D. Hunter Titanium (D. Jazz x D. Kayla) Photo. Peter Adams

Breeding *Dendrobium speciosum* from the beginning until now!

Tony Blewitt

Photographs: Bill Dobson

1970 onwards

The first orchid I grew was a small 'cocktail' *Cattleya* hybrid from Wayside Nursery, owned by Bill and Jean Cannons. My first native orchid was a Cow Orchid, *Cryptostylis subulata*, found along Crescent Head Road while collecting white ants with a neighbor for his chickens. I had a small orchid house while at school. In the late 70s I went to Newcastle for work, and returned home in 1983. That's when I started to get back into orchids.

My first encounter with a quality *D. speciosum* was in 1985 when I saw the late Alwyn Flanagan's plants at the Wauchope orchid show. Alwyn was exhibiting *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Little John' and var. *curvicaule* 'Mackay'. It was a real educational experience to see those plants, as I had only known of the local form, *D. speciosum* var. *hilli*. Seeing Alwyn's plants really got me interested in *D. speciosum*, with large open flowers displaying beautifully! After this flowering, Alwyn Flanagan, Rod Graham, Harry Klose and Allan Garret worked together and made some *D. speciosum* crosses.

Alwyn Flanagan, Rod Graham and Allan Garrett collaborative crosses:

104/85 'Little John' x 'Mackay'

101/85 'Mackay' x 'Bill Platt' (Windermere)

102/85 'Mackay' x 'Little John'

-/85 'Allan Trotter' x 'Bill Platt'

North Queensland

In early 1986 I planned a trip to north Queensland with a school mate who also enjoyed orchids. I was wanting to buy or collect native orchids. I had just acquired Bill Lavarack and Bruce Gray's book 'Tropical Orchids of Australia' as our guide. We set out early in May, making Cairns in three days. The first orchid nursery we visited in Cairns was Lonne's. David Lonne had been breeding with *D. canaliculatum* and *D. carronii*, making many beautifully coloured, floriferous, compact antelope hybrids. I can still remember the wall of *D. bigibbum* var. *bigibbum* from Weipa he had in full flower - 100-odd plants with beautifully rounded flowers.

We enquired from David as to where we could buy plants of *D. speciosum* var. *pedunculatum*, *D. jonesii* var. *magnificum*, *D. fleckeri* and others. He told us people were not so interested in them up here but he did give us a contact on the tablelands, Rev. Ron Collins. We decided to leave to Cairns and move up to Atherton hoping to catch up with Ron. We rang and immediately had a good rapport. We went to visit him in Jack Street Atherton, and this was to be the start of a lasting friendship. That first day Ron took us bush, we collected *D. speciosum* var. *pedunculatum* and a *Dipodum ensifolium* plant which I still have to this day. That we night we watched a slideshow presentation of Papua New Guinea orchids that Bruce Gray presented.

In our stay at Atherton we met quite a few of North Queensland's orchid growers, such as Tommy Wolf, Chris Godfrey, Bruce Gray, Joe Mackin, Len Lawler and Geoff Stocker. We spent our days out bush or visiting growers, returning to Ron's place for the evening, talking orchids. Ron had a heap of stories that could go on to the early hours. He was always looking to help us find the special plants we wanted for breeding. We told Ron of the *D. speciosum* at our local show, the Mackay plant. He exclaimed "Oh! Eungella, yes the *speciosum* from Eungella are well known to native growers from the north. Eungella plants have very good quality flowers".

Leaving Atherton we called at Keith's Orchid Nursery in Townsville and were invited for tea. Whilst having tea our conversation drifted to the Mackay *speciosums*. Mick also knew of them and gave us a contact in Mackay. Thank you Mick and Thelma.

Mackay

We visited Marj Purnell, a very nice woman who was growing *D. lasianthera* and its hybrids, very beautiful plants but not so easy to grow down south. We asked her about the Eungella plants and what she knew of them and then she gave us another name - Mr. Rob Ebner of Mackay who had a collection of these plants. Marj rang him for us and we went around to his place to see the collection. Rob was very helpful - he knew

of a farmer on Eungella having timber felled and there would be a possibility of plants being on the heads of these trees, so he arranged a visit for us. The farmer's name was George Bell of Bee Creek Road, Eungella. We travelled to Eungella and to George's where he directed us to the tree-felled area and that afternoon we collected *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Bee Creek' and 'Palmerston'. This was the first of many visits to Eungella over the next ten years collecting bits and pieces of this beautiful variety of *D. speciosum*. Some of the named plants we collected include Blew Moon, Daylight Moon, Misty MT, Jacqueline, Ted, Winsome, Kai, Kiri Asten, Tully James, Mark, Ivory Star and Giant Star.

Breeding

The first *D. speciosum* breeding I attempted was on the 6/9/87. It was 'Palmerston' x self. This attempt failed. In 1988 I managed to make two hybrids with *D. speciosum* 'Palmerston' - *D. X delicatum* using a *D. kingianum* 'Merrellen No.1' x 'Merrellen No.2' seedling, and I crossed *D. Karen Nair* onto *D. speciosum* 'Palmerston' to make my first registered hybrid *D. Eungella*. In the 1989 season I made the intervarietal cross *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* 'Palmerston' x *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Windermere' (15/9/89). This was to be the first of many crosses. On 16/9/90 I went over to Alwyn Flanagan's and saw his flowering of *D. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* 'Big Boy'. We discussed what we would do with it, a selfing or outcross with it. We decided to cross it with Windermere. Whilst a member of Wauchope Orchid Society, we were lucky to have meetings where Ted and Barbara Gregory would show slides of other forms of Queensland *speciosums* such as var. *grandiflorum*, and this further inspired us for more trips north.

In 1991 I travelled north with Alwyn and dad to collect *D. speciosum* 'Will's Gold', 'Suzy Good Legs', 'Canary Yellow' and 'Flanagan's Gold'. On the way home we called in on Ted and Barbara at Mt. Tambourine and saw Ted's AM flowering of *D. speciosum* 'Glennins' - it looked magnificent. I also saw Ted's flowering of *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* 'Mt Larcom Gold' and 'Kroombit Gold'. On 7/9/92 my father and I collected *D. speciosum* var. *capricornicum* from Mt. Hedlow e.g. 'Capricorn Sovereign'. On 8/9/92 we collected plants from the Blackdown

Tableland area.

On 10/9/92 my father and I climbed Mt. Larcom and found two very good var. *grandiflorum*, one seedling flowering for the first time, a good yellow. The second plant we found was an intense gold almost orange flower, not a very large flower, but the segments were all in the right position, this we named 'Beranghi Gold'.

In 11/9/92 I visited Kroombit Tops and found *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* in full flower high on the hoop pines. I did manage to collect fallen bits and pieces. We also saw *D. monophyllum*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *Plectorrhiza brevilabris*, what looked like *Bulbophyllum weinthalii*, and some beautiful cycads.

In 1994 Ted and I went to Eungella. This was in the last years of timber cutting on Eungella and we bought from the Eungella nursery plants I named *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Misty Mountain', 'Jacqueline' and other plants of quality. Others collected on this tip were 'Ted', 'Winsome' plus others. Later on, *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum* 'Daylight Moon' received FCC/ANOS.

After five years absent from breeding, in 2013 I started to breed plants again, and looked at seedlings that had flowered and were flowering for the first time. I had seen quite a few plants flower over the years, and had started to develop some conclusions as to the breeding qualities of most of these plants. Now I looked at the plants and thought of them as four different lines.

Line 1: *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum* breeding. Using seedlings from previous crosses with deep gold colouring, and good shape flowers, to cross together to double up on good points and attempt to breed even darker gold flowers.

Line 2: *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* breeding. My best lines being 'Daylight Moon' x 'Jacqueline', 'Daylight Moon' x 'Palmerston' and 'Daylight Moon' selfings, with odd other crosses such as 'Dave's Gold' x 'Daylight Moon' being used. Breeding amongst these plants aims to double up and reinforce the good qualities, looking for more new quality features to improve them such as better labellums.

Line 3: Show bench inter-varietal. Looking for



D. speciosum var. *curvicaule* ('Daylight Moon' x 'Palmerston')



D. speciosum 'Beranghi Gold' x 'Windermere'

large powerful, excellent shaped flowers that present well and are consistently good each year. The lines used to produce this style being the crosses of 'Windermere' x 'Daylight Moon' (e.g. 'Georgia'), 'Kate's Special' x 'Daylight Moon', 'Windermere' x 'Beranghi Gold' and the Palmerston Mist (a *curvicaule* line) crosses. I think by blending the best of these plants we will achieve excellent shape, broad segments, very large flowers, heavy substance, good spike habit and arrangement in colours of white to gold.

Line 4: Show bench inter-varietal compact. Breeding these days is very selective considering the time to make and flower out a cross, and using the best available. Time to first flowering varies a lot – it can be as short as 4 years, but more commonly 7-8 years.

My list of *Dendrobium speciosum* crossings:

6/9/91 'Palmerston' x 'TB' (syn. 'Blew Moon')
 6/9/91 'Windermere' x 'Blew Moon'
 6/9/91 'Atherton' x 'Blew Moon'
 1993 'Windermere' x 'Daylight Moon'
 1993 'National White' x 'Daylight Moon'
 1993 'Big Boy' x 'National White'
 1993 'Atherton' x 'Daylight Moon'
 8/94 'Blew Moon' x 'Jacqueline'
 9/94 'Daylight Moon' x 'Jacqueline'
 29/94 'Windermere' x 'Palmerston'
 41/94 'Windermere' x 'Misty Mountain'
 44/94 'Daylight Moon' x 'Dave's Gold'
 21/96 'Palmerston' x 'George's River Special'
 22/96 'Neville' x 'George's River Special'
 23/96 'National White' x 'George's River Special'
 24/96 '104 Long Spike' x 'Daylight Moon'
 25/96 '104 Creamy' x 'Daylight Moon'
 26/96 'Palmerston' x 'Daylight Moon'
 20/98 'Ivory Star' x 'Winsome'
 24/98 'Robust' x 'Daylight Moon'
 28/98 'Beranghi Broad Lip' x 'Ted's No. 1'
 31/98 'Big Boy' x 'Daylight Moon'
 34/98 'Ivory Star' x 'Palmerston'
 62/98 'Golden Sunshine' x 'Will's Gold'
 63/98 'Golden Sunshine' x 'Kroombit Gold'
 70/98 'Creek Aureum' x 'Kroombit Gold'
 76/98 'Creek Aureum' x 'Daylight Moon'
 87/98 'Palmerston' x 'Kundun Gold'
 64/99 ('Atherton' x 'Tony's No.1') x 'Daylight Moon'
 65/99 ('Atherton' x 'Windermere') x 'Daylight Moon'
 66/99 'Busty' x 'Daylight Moon'
 77/99 'Daylight Moon' x 'Kulleroo'
 16/2000 'Neville' x 'Daylight Moon'
 17/2000 'Neville' x 'National White'
 2001 'Pine Mountain White' x 'Kai Anthony'
 2001 'Tully White' x 'National White'

23/01 'Daylight Moon' x 'Kai Anthony'
 01/02 'Kate's Special' x 'George's River Special' (this failed)
 02/02 'Daylight Moon' x 'Blake'
 3/2003 'Kate's Special' x 'Ken's Big White' ('Windermere' x 'Glen')
 29/2003 ('National White' x 'Daylight Moon') x 'Daylight Moon'
 31/2003 'White' x 'Ken's Big White' ('White' = 'Windermere' x self)
 17/2004 'Kai' x 'Blake'
 18/2004 ('Kai' x 'Daylight Moon') x 'Jacqueline'
 20/2004 'Kai' x 'Daylight Moon'
 24/2004 'Full Moon' x 'Palmerston'
 1/2005 'National White' x 'Paluma White'
 13/06 ('Big Boy' x 'Neil's Choice') x self
 39/06 'George's River Special' x ('Neil's Choice' x self)
 40/06 'George's River Special' x 'Windermere'
 45/06 'Neil's Choice' x 'George's River Special'
 50/06 ('Windermere' x self) x 'George's River Special'
 52/06 'Daylight Moon' x 'Palmerston'
 65/06 'Empire Bay' x 'Windermere'
 127/06 'Palmerston' x 'Full Moon'
 27/07 ('Amy' x 'Windermere') x 'Kai Anthony'
 28/07 ('Amy' x 'Windermere') x 'Kate's Special'
 29/07 ('Windermere' x 'Palmerston') 'CJ' x 'Kai Anthony'
 31/07 'Payne's Crossing' x 'Kai Anthony'
 33/07 ('Dave's Gold' x 'Daylight Moon') x ('Daylight Moon' x 'Jacqueline')
 35/07 'Kate's Special' x 'Kai Anthony'
 41/07 'CJ' x 'Georgia' ('Windermere' x 'Daylight Moon')
 TB9/13 'Georgia' x 'George's River Special'
 TB10/13 'George's River Special' x 'Kai Anthony'
 TB13/13 ('Kate's Special' x 'Daylight Moon') x ('Palmerston' x 'Windermere')
 TB18/13 'Kate's Special' x 'Kai Anthony'
 TB19/13 ('Daylight Moon' x self) 'Tallis Fanstasia' x 'Patroclus'
 TB21/13 ('Emu Park' x 'George's River Special') x ('Big Boy' x 'Windermere') 'Best Cream'
 TB22/13 ('Big Boy' x 'Windermere') 'Best White' x ('Emu Park' x 'George's River Special')
 TB23/13 ('Daylight Moon' x self) 'Claire de Lune' x 'Patroclus'
 TB44/13 'Golden Sunshine' x 'Beranghi Gold'
 TB45/13 ('Oh Sugar' x 'Kroombit') x 'Beranghi Gold'
 TB46/13 ('Oh Sugar' x 'Kroombit') x ('Creek Aureum' x 'Beranghi Gold')
 47/13 ('Oh Sugar' x 'Kroombit') x 'Golden Sunshine'

Tony Blewitt has been a key influence in the development of D. speciosum breeding lines.



Dendrobium speciosum 'Daylight Moon' x self



Dendrobium speciosum
'Misty Mountain'

see back cover for more images

Saccolabiopsis armitii (F.Muell.) Dockr. - an occasional Australian orchid

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Mr. W. de Armits' *Saccolabiopsis* is not an easy orchid to find, grow or pronounce. It is one of 14 species in the genus belonging to the Subtribe Aeridinae, found from India, China, Thailand the Malay Archipelago, New Guinea, to Australia and Fiji. There is a second Australian species, *S. rectifolia* from a small area in north Queensland. According to Dockrill (1992) it has been recorded only from the base of the Bellenden Ker Range, growing near watercourses and flowering erratically, mainly between July and October. It is definitely rare, to a degree where most orchid enthusiasts have never seen or heard of it.

Saccolabiopsis resembles *Sarcochilus* in plant form and flower, and the name is derived from a similarity to *Saccolabium*, established by Blume in 1825, this name referring to the sac-like labellum), which was one of the earlier names. It has been variably named, first by von Mueller, as *Sarcochilus armitii* in 1875, then *Cleistostoma nugentii* and *C. armitii* by Bailey; then *Saccolabium armitii* (F. Muell.) by Rupp in 1851, and there have been others. The changes are understandable when the similar flowers in these genera are considered along with the stepwise discovery of closely related species.

Saccolabiopsis armitii is found sporadically along eastern Australia, from central Queensland in the catchment of the Fitzroy River, to Princess Charlotte Bay in north Queensland, and possibly further north. It is a plant of harsh seasonal dry scrubs or dry semi deciduous rainforest, mainly in out of the way places, where rainfall is infrequent for long periods, and sometimes torrential. It can be found from the coast to 250 km inland.

I first became familiar with it in the early 1990s when living in central Queensland and taking part in plant surveys in some very remote and inhospitable country inland from Rockhampton and Mackay, where it was often entered in species lists along with some of Australia's most hardy species. In flower between September and December it is beautiful, out of flower it goes unnoticed as a little fan of leaves, often mistaken

for a *Sarcochilus*. When I am in the distribution range or north of it, I now look out and note the host plants on which it grows. There are a lot of dry harsh suitable environments between Princess Charlotte Bay and the tip of Cape York, so it is likely that it could be found there, making a fairly continuous distribution north, including the known sites in New Guinea. The northeast part of Cape York is very inaccessible with plenty of unexplored territory. This article records the places where I have recorded it, and extends the limited information available in books.

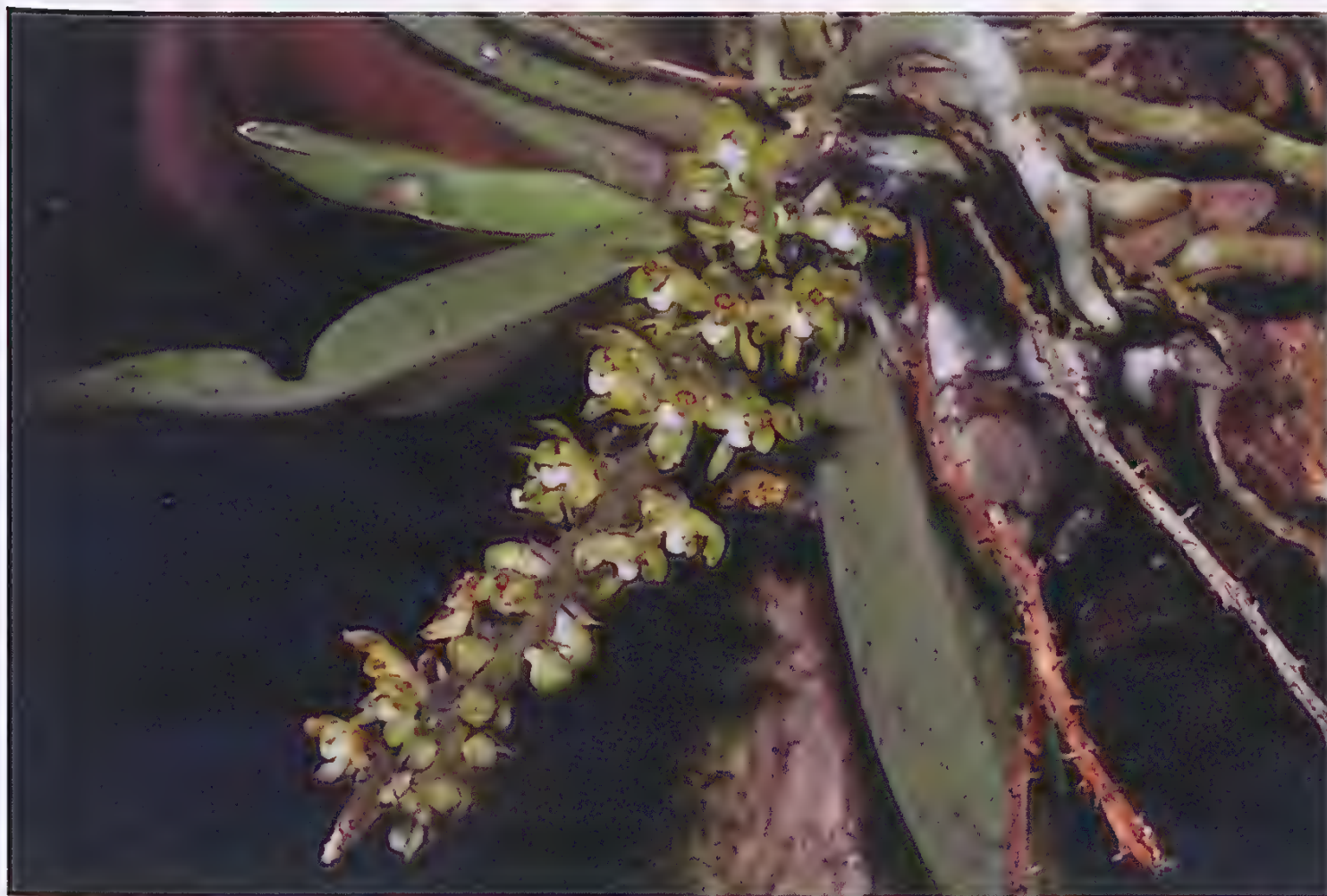
The Plant

Small, with a short stem up to 5 cm. long bearing up to 3 – 6 leaves, up to 6 cm long x 1.3 cm wide, elliptical to narrowly obovate. Racemes 1-3, up to 9 cm long, with as many as 50 flowers up to 4 mm wide, translucent green, not opening widely, with a white labellar midlobe and a cylindrical spur about 1.5 mm long. A fuller description is given in Dockrill (1992).

Culture

Generally difficult to maintain in cultivation, both in northern and southern Australia. It may do best on a slab in reasonably bright light, but in Melbourne, it has not survived more than a year grown in an intermediate plant house that reproduced some, but apparently not enough of the natural conditions. It may do better grown from seed and allowed to adapt to conditions from the start,, and I know of it being grown from seed on at least one occasion, with successful deflasking and establishment on mounts.

In November 2015 Eddie Boudette flowered a plant with 4 racemes, growing on a cork mount, probably with an origin from flask. He exhibited it at a Kabi meeting and it was illustrated in the November 2015 newsletter of the Kabi Group. Eddie told me that he grows this plant, with further development this growing season on the eastern side of his unheated plant house, mists it daily and regularly uses a low strength nitrogen fertilizer.



Saccolabiopsis armitii Photo. Peter Adams



Saccolabiopsis armitii Photo. Peter Adams

Natural Hybrids, Awards and Breeding

There are no known natural hybrids; the most likely would be one with *Sarcochilus minutiflos*, with which it is sometimes found. There are no awarded plants and it has not been used in making artificial hybrids.

Some Field Observations 1993-2015

Koumala: I first found *S. armitii* in June 1993 at Koumala south of Mackay at 130 m altitude near the base of the Connors Range. It was occasionally found on large *Terminalia* trees and *Syzygium australe* (Lilly Pilly) in gallery forest and remnant rainforest patches, near sugar cane in an exposed area and fairly wet environment for the species. It was not in flower. The companion plants were *Dendrobium gracilicaule*, *D. bowmannii*, *Cymbidium suave* and *Peristeranthus hillii*.

Connors Range: inland from St. Lawrence. A month later, it was again occasional at 300-400 m altitude in a narrow dry rainforest gully surrounded by *Eucalyptus* and Bloodwood (*Corymbia*) forest. It was also lithophytic. There were several host shrubs including *Austromyrtus*, *Drypetes* and *Bosistoa* alongside a seasonal rocky creek in shaded but very harsh country. The other orchids in the area were *D. gracilicaule*, *D. bowmannii*, *D. tetragonum*, *Oberonia complanata*, small plants of *Plectorrhiza tridentata* and *Sarcochilus minutiflos* (a different taxon from *Sarcochilus hillii* [Dockrill 1992, Jones 2006], with plants north of Rockhampton not well studied).

Eungella: inland from Mackay. At 170 m altitude, in drier sclerophyll forest along a gully with *Allocasuarina* and *Lophostemon*, well below the wet rainforest areas where *D. speciosum* var. *curvicaule* is a dominant orchid in Tulip-Oaks (*Argyrodendron actinophyllum*). A few scattered plants of *S. armitii* were found in association with *D. linguiforme*, occasional *D. canaliculatum*, *Cymbidium suave*, *Oberonia muelleri*, *Plectorrhiza tridentata* and *Geodorum pictum* in the leaf litter.

Clairview: central Qld between Rockhampton and Mackay, 50 m altitude along Middle Creek. A dry rainforest habitat with *Syzygium austral*, a common shady host for a population of small

plants with developing racemes in August 1995.

The other hardy species were *D. speciosum*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. x gracillimum*, *D. discolor*, large plants of *D. bowmannii*, *D. tetragonum* subsp. *catractarum* and *Sarcochilus minutiflos*.

Carmila: central Qld, north of Clairview, in August 1995, at 20 m altitude in dry rainforest and mixed *Melaleuca* and *Allocasuarina* forest, on Native Olive (*Olea paniculata*), *Callistemon viminalis* and *S. australe*. The *S. armitii* were broader in the leaf than at the sites listed above. Associated orchids were *D. speciosum*, *D. bowmannii*, almost pure colour green flowering (except for the labellum) *D. tetragonum* var. *giganteum* at its southern limit, *D. discolor*, *Sarcochilus minutiflos* and the terrestrial *Geodorum pictum*.

Forty Mile Scrub: west of Mareeba. August 2010. Occasional plants scattered in a remote and isolated patch of dry rainforest with large figs and stinger trees (*Dendrocnide*). Other orchids present were *D. linguiforme*, *D. bowmannii*, *D. monophyllum*, *C. canaliculatum*, and *Sarcochilus minutiflos*.

Princess Charlotte Bay: north Qld. May 2013, at 5 m altitude. Scattered plants were found in dry vine thickets very close to swamps and the coast, growing on various low growing shrubs, some in the family Myrtaceae, as the only other orchid present in colonies of *D. bigibbum* var. *superbum*. The plants were very small with no evidence of recent flowering, only one plant on each shrub, and these were very infrequent.

Acknowledgements

Grant Paterson checked identifications and habitat details for the central Qld and Mackay areas.

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My *Dendrobium* Breeding Program

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Producing new *Dendrobium* hybrids is to me a very personal thing; I do all my breeding because I choose to do it, not to see what will happen. To me, randomly crossing plants “to see what will happen” is a waste of time. I think if you don’t know what is going to come from the cross, there can’t really be any point in doing it. Of course, at first I started out just doing anything and everything that looked good without understanding the ins and outs of the different parents I was using and their growth habit. Over time though, through experience gained by trial and error, and from talking with experienced breeders to get their views, I began to understand more about how I could get the results I wanted. I select crosses because I think the cross will be an improvement on the parents and because it would be a plant I would like to have. What I am aiming for is to create good sized flowers that will last for a long time, with an ultimate goal of nearly solid red colour and plenty of texture, and slightly arching spikes.

When choosing plants to breed with I will consider flower count, as well as shape and colour. My preference would always be to try to breed with the best specimens I have flowering at the time, but that’s not always the case, as not all of the good flowers will be out at the same time. One great flower might be out but the one to put on it isn’t, so this is why I keep pollen put away to use in future crosses. At times I may use pollen provided by other hobbyists but only if I know the plant is 100% correct, meaning that it is correctly named and there is no disease on the plant.

When choosing breeding parents, it’s very important to know what made them and what they have produced in the past. I take into consideration the quality of the flowers, their texture, size, colour, flower count and flower longevity. If you understand what each plant has produced you have a good idea what the cross you are doing will produce. However it’s not an exact science, as at times I have used some very good quality flowers but the crosses have produced only very average flowers. My overriding criterion is to always have

the right name on the parents and the cross so that when you flower them you know what you have. It seems these days that too many people are breeding plants that are the flavour of the month without caring about the correct naming of the plants as long as they will sell. You might still get some good ones out of these but when you come to breed with them you don’t know what’s behind them. If I have any doubts about the names on the tag of any plant, no matter how good they appear to be, I will not use them in my breeding program.

I do find that some specific plants are better breeders than others and will be very fertile. These plants produce good size pods with very good golden orange seed and generally I get good germination from them. I prefer to take seed from pods which are still green as I find I have better success. I do all my own flasking as I can ensure consistency. When replating, I always put the large protocorms in the flasks first as they are the strongest growers and I’ve found they then become the better growers out of flask. Some examples are *D. Sheena* ‘Sydenham’ AD/AOC, *D. Eclipse* ‘Annetta’ AM/AOC, *D. Dunokayla* ‘Calder Park’ and *D. Avril*’s Gold ‘Sydenham’.

However a good breeding plant is not necessarily a good grower – I aim to get both together, but that is not always easy. It has been quite a long and time consuming process to work this all out. As a general rule, if plants grow well in flask they will continue to grow well when taken out, so I am trying to breed plants that are a lot more vigorous. A lot of my crosses are growing like weeds in flask and I find I can now take plants out of flask and flower them within 2 – 5 years, which is a great result.

One example of the above would be the results I have achieved with my favourite breeding plant, *D. Redman* ‘Sydenham’ HCC/AOC. I use it for its great colour, perfect texture and good growth, but also as the flowers have very good shape, great substance and longevity, lasting for up to two months. Crossing *D. Redman* ‘Sydenham’ with *D. Jesmond Sparkler* (*D. Brimbank Sparkler*),



D. Sheena 'Sydenham'



D. Avril's Gold 'Sydenham'



D. Brimbank Blaze



D. Eclipse 'Annetta'



D. Redman 'Sydenham'



D. Brimbank Sparkler

and *D. Redman* 'Sydenham' with *D. Aussie Parade* (*D. Brimbank Uluru*) gave progeny which have the excellent floral characteristics of the 'Sydenham' parent including the flower longevity. They are coming out at the same time as the parent but the flowers have shown improved color, shape, size and texture which was the aim. How many of these examples will themselves be good breeders has still to be determined.

Likewise when I crossed *D. Redman* 'Sydenham' with another favourite, *D. Dunokayla* 'Calder Park', I got a good chunky thick textured flower with a very good flower count, and a strong gold colour (cross registered as *D. Brimbank Blaze*). In crossing them together I was hoping for larger flowers than the parents and, of course a super texture. *Dendrobium* *Brimbank Blaze* has large 75mm golden yellow flowers with a little bit of red-burgundy marking, bolt upright spikes and super thick texture which gives the flowers their longevity. When flowering from 3–4 year old plants the growth pattern of the canes was in between that of *D. Redman* and *D. Dunokayla* - a good sized, stronger cane that is not too tall or too short.

These days, after all the selective breeding, I am producing more consistent flowers and a much better rate of improved flowers compared to a

number of years ago. The selective process has allowed me to control the quality of the flowers better and to produce a stronger growing plant with strong canes and a good flower count, and with the flowers lasting for months. I attribute this to the use of quality parents, and look forward to flowering many more.

Michael Drobbski is a Victorian specialist breeder of Australian Dendrobium hybrids.



D. Brimbank Uluru



D. Brimbank Fire

Two New *Dendrobium speciosum* Style Hybrids

Mark Daniels

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I have been interested in Australian bush orchids since primary school. In Year 9 at Asquith High School, near Hornsby, a fellow student brought in a *Dendrobium kingianum* 'Albert West' which had won first prize at a recent Berowra Orchid Society Show. He invited me to a meeting and I became a member for 10 years, learning from top growers such as Ted Gogerly, David White, Laurie Svenson (President) and Wal Upton, who often was a visitor to the meetings. Alan Rushden an engineer known as 'The Pipe Man' was my best mentor and the most successful grower in our club. He propagated many orchids on the outside of earthenware pipes, with the bottom hole cemented, and the pipe filled with water and fertilizer to seep through and feed the plants.

A naturalist-teacher at school, John Shields, had us arriving at 7am, drawing orchids and other flowers, and joining the Gould League of Bird Lovers and The Tree Wardens Society. I quickly became interested in learning about the bush in the central coast and Hawkesbury area and joined the Hallstrum Nature Reserve (now Muogamarra Nature Reserve) at age 12, working as an Honorary Ranger. I helped build tracks and fire trails and made illustrations for the Information Centre. One of my tasks was tending under supervision a collection of confiscated orchids at the Reserve that were grown in leaf mould and pieces of sandstone, until they were required for court appearances of orchid poachers. In the collection were many blood red *Dendrobium kingianum*, with white and purple-laced lips and large clumps of *Sarcochilus ceciliae* - some of these given to me after the court cases.

I walked many areas of the Hawkesbury River valley, started my own collection and exhibited orchids at the shows, where nobody could beat Ted Gogerly with his magnificent plant of *D. falcorostrum* 'Anembo'. I did not commence seriously breeding orchids until 18 years ago. My first attempts in conjunction with Bill Skillicorn were with *D. × delicatum*, *D. Hilda Poxon* and *D. Golden Dorn* (*D. Eureka* 'Yellow Cake' x *D. Nunkumbil*), registered by Bill in 1989. We used my plant of a deep sherbet-orange flowered

D. fleckeri to create hybrids like *D. Peter* and *D. Sunglow*. I spent more than 20 years working and learning from Bill about the variation in species and how to use them in breeding. Bill worked with the Electricity Commission, and was able to obtain a few consignments of orchids, including *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflorum*. In one of these consignments, he found var. *grandiflorum* 'Grand Mal', a very large flowering gold from the upper reaches of the Brisbane River, which often won Grand Champion or Best *D. speciosum*.

Dendrobium speciosum Style Hybrids

I have always liked the colour and texture of *D. Sunglow* (*D. speciosum* x *D. fleckeri*), and developed the objective to breed brightly coloured yellow flowers with burgundy, on longer racemes than is possible with *D. Sunglow*. *Dendrobium speciosum* 'Brilliance' (*D. speciosum* 'Windermere' x 'Beranghi Gold') with an orange flower is a suitable parent. Last year, after seeing some early results of two crosses, I decided on advice from Peter Adams to register them with the Royal Horticultural Society of Kew, using the name 'Claro' (referring to Clarence Town).

D. Claro Gold



D. Claro Gold (Photo. Peter Adams)

Dendrobium 'Claro Gold' is *D. Amber Banks* x *D. speciosum* 'Brilliance'. I wanted to make a *D. Sunglow* styled yellow flowering hybrid with improved flower count on strong racemes, which are a main priority in my breeding. The Amber Banks parent (*D. Sunglow* x *D. speciosum*) has well shaped bright gold flowers, and *D. speciosum* 'Brilliance' is an almost orange flowering plant with long racemes. The composition is *D. speciosum* 87.5% and *D. fleckeri* 12.5%, which is likely to produce plants very much dominated by *D. speciosum*, and perhaps as far as we should go in that direction.

The pollination was made in 2010 with first flowering after 3 growing seasons, in September 2015, with most seedlings still a way to go towards flowering. The plants are fairly fast growing despite the high *D. speciosum* component and are under 10 cm high so far, likely to more than double in size at maturity. I deflasked about 6 flasks and so far around 10 plants have flowered, all solid gold fleshy flowers, mostly with rounded, balanced shape and fairly similar appearance and quality. The labellum is lemon with purple bars. The flower count so far is up to five, but will increase significantly with larger plants. The full potential will not be realized for quite a few more seasons.



D. Claro Stars (Photo. Peter Adams)

D. Claro Stars

The second registered hybrid is *D. Claro Stars* (*D. Fromelles* x *D. speciosum* 'Brilliance'). The pod parent *D. Fromelles* (*D. Aussie Angel* 'Brilliance' x *D. Aussie Victory* 'Supernatural') has tangerine coloured flowers with a large thumb-sized red spotted lip. The flowers are very large – up to 9 cm high and 7 cm wide on upright racemes. I used *D. speciosum* 'Brilliance' in an attempt to develop a tangerine/orange hybrid with the qualities of *D. Fromelles*, and longer multi-flowered racemes, perhaps in the style of *D. Avril's Gold*. The species composition of *D. Claro Stars* is fairly complex – *D. speciosum* 56.3%, *D. tetragonum* 15.7%, *D. bigibbum* 12.5%, *D. kingianum* 9.4% and *D. fleckeri* 6.5%. It is a *speciosum*-style plant and flower but has the star shape tendency of *D. tetragonum*, with long life flowers lasting up to a month due to the influence of *D. bigibbum*.

The cross was made in 2010 and first flowered in 2014, with a few more in 2015, now 6 flowering plants in total. These plants grow more rapidly than *D. Claro Gold*, and have produced a surprising range of colours, only some tangerine. Some are pink on a white background, one is yellow and one is mauve and yellow; all have very wide white attractive labellums, two with an occasional pale mauve spot. With only a small number of plants flowering so far, it is not possible to say much at all about whether the cross will be successful in producing a range of quality plants, but the initial quality and range of different colours is encouraging.

Another Interesting Hybrid

Last year I flowered some seedlings of *D. Burgundy Cream* x *D. Yondi Tina* 'Goliath', a cross made by David Butler. The pod parent *D. 'Burgundy Cream'* is a *D. bigibbum* hybrid, *D. Suzanne* x *D. Dot Sheen*, and as the name suggests was produced by Reg Sheen. It has flowers in the style of *D. tetragonum* but more filled in, and with a strong orange-red colour. The composition is *D. tetragonum* 46.9%, *D. bigibbum* 25.%, *D. kingianum* 15.6% and *D. falcorostrum* 12.5%, with a potential for interesting colour and long lived flowers. In earlier years, Neil Finch and Bill Skillicorn used *D. Burgundy Cream* in many crosses, and Neil registered it in 1995. Nearly everyone knows the other parent in the cross, *D.*

Yondi Tina 'Goliath' FCC/ANOS (1999) which is a brilliant shaped gold hybrid. It is still early days for this one, with the first three seedlings to flower being deep gold, apricot and orange, and all three having a fairly large white labellum. The flowers were long lasting due to the influence of *D. bigibbum*, which is 12.5% of the species composition.

Mark Daniels is a NSW specialist *Dendrobium* breeder and innovator.

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Latouria Dendrobiums

Spence, Phil., and Tokunaga, Roy. 2010

Published by the American Orchid Society as a supplement to Volume 79 of *Orchids – The Bulletin of the AOS*. With over 40 years of extensive studies of *Dendrobium* section *Latouria*, Phil Spence shares his observations and experiences of both the species and hybrids. Roy Tokunaga from Hawaii discusses general culture of these intriguing plants. 81 colour photographs. Softcover. 32 pages.

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Kangaroo Island Orchids in the Spring

Text and photographs Geoff Beilby
geoff.beilby@bigpond.com

In the last week of September 2015, Thelma Bridle of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia (NOSSA) was scheduled to monitor a population of *Caladenia ovata* in the Beyeria Conservation Park on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. *Caladenia ovata* is a rare species with affinities to *C. leptochila* which is found to the north of Adelaide.

Kangaroo Island is mainly low to taller mallee woodland, with extensive areas of low and medium heathland. There are areas of taller *Eucalyptus* woodland and forest, coastal dune vegetation and some areas of saline flats, marshes and lakes. Over 70% has been alienated and mostly cleared for agriculture with some plantation forestry. Much of the heathland and mallee woodland is reminiscent of the Victorian mallee, with quite a number of species in common. Several species seen are even common in the Western Otways heathlands in Victoria. But there were numerous plants indigenous to the island, and the grevilleas, prostantheras, boronias, correas, and sterculiaceae shrubs were of most interest.

Native orchid lovers seldom miss an opportunity to get out with fellow enthusiasts, especially people who know an area, so a small group soon planned a short run around the island for the week. Peter McCauley organised the ferry crossings and set up accommodation for the nine of us in Kingscote on Kangaroo Island. Included in the group was Andrew Brown, who flew over from Western Australia for his first look around the island. Of course Andy was interested in relating South Australian orchid species to West Australian species, as well as gaining knowledge of the various habitats. Bob Bates caught up with us on the island, and contributed for a couple of days with the group.

All were looking forward to a pleasant ramble in mild to warm spring conditions. As it turned out, the drought in Southern Australia and extremely hot weather in late winter/spring meant conditions were not favourable for ground orchids or beating around the bush – in fact it was very hot. However all the species we were keen to observe

were found, with enough in good condition for the photographers. Many sites abundant with orchids in previous NOSSA surveys were very dry, and plant numbers depleted, but reasonable populations were found in some areas.

The ephemeral nature of native orchids was certainly demonstrated under the conditions encountered, especially during observations at the *Caladenia ovata* site. Plants were in flower or opening up when surveyed on Tuesday morning, but when Thelma returned two days later to take some extra measurements, she was too late. Sites visited included Browns Beach, Beyeria Conservation Park, Vivonne Bay, Kelly Caves, Parndana NP, Three Chain Road, and three sites in Flinders Chase National Park - Bunker Hill, Remarkable Rocks and Rocky River.

We were able to find the species of most interest to us without any problems. *Caladenia ovata* and *C. reticulata* were found in Beyeria Conservation Park, and *C. valida*, *C. reticulata*, and *C. sanguinea* in parts of Flinders Chase National Park. *Caladenia reticulata*, and *C. sanguinea* were also found in most of the other sites visited, along with a number of other caladenias and other orchid genera. Other caladenias seen were green comb spiders *C. tensa* and *C. tentaculata*, finger group *C. carnea* and *C. prolata*, the other filamentous spider orchid *C. capillata*, and the Heart Lipped Spider Orchid, *C. cardiochila*. The best sites for variety this year were probably those towards the southern end of Three Chain Road. Only one specimen of a hybrid between *C. cardiochila* and *C. reticulata*, which was often seen along Three Chain Road, was found this trip.

On the second day, while travelling along Starrs Road between two known sites, we came upon a minor single car road accident. The driver, a recent immigrant not familiar with driving on gravel roads, had slid into a low bank damaging the radiator and a few panels. While Thelma spent half an hour on the mobile sorting out a tow truck, a look down the road along the road verge revealed some of the best *Caladenia tensa* specimens



Caladenia ovata Beyeria CP (with tag)



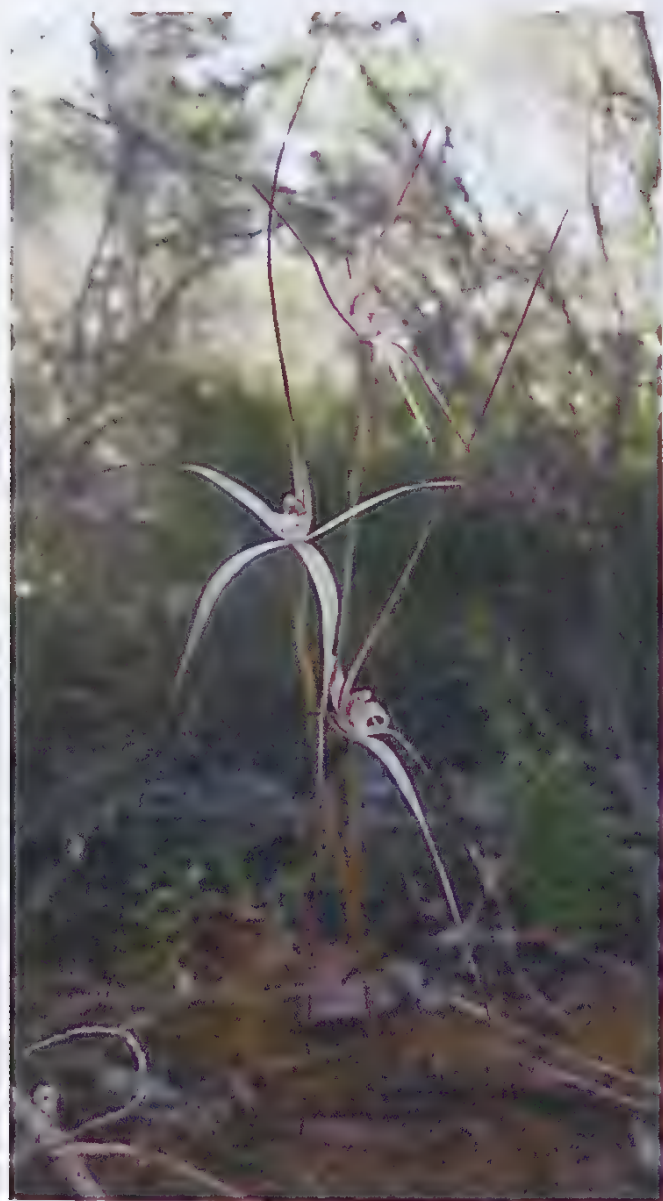
Caladenia sanguinea Vivonne Bay



Caladenia tensa Three Chain Road



Caladenia valida Bunker Hill



Caladenia capillata Vivonne Bay



Caladenia reticulata Three Chain Road

we observed on the trip, plus other *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Acianthus* and *Thelymitra* species. A good range of wildflowers were also found on the disturbed road verges. It was a chance find, not unlike the occasions when you spend hours surveying a bush area only to find the species you were looking for within a few meters of your parked car. I also noted that there was a continuum between *C. tensa* and *C. tentaculata* specimens seen on the trip. A bit like the uncertainty amateurs have in distinguishing between *C. parva* and *C. phaeoclavia* in Western Victoria.

Also seen were a number of thelymitras including *Thelymitra alcockiae*, *T. luteocilium*, the ubiquitous *T. flexuosa*, and a pretty little pink *T. nuda* type. A few common greenhoods (*Pterostylis nana* and *P. pedunculata*) were still in flower, and some *P. aff. plumosa* were also found in an old gravel pit off South Coast Highway near Karatta.

Diuris orientis was fairly widespread, including some dense patches beside the South Coast Highway near Seagers Road. Also along the highway some buds of *Gastrodia sesamoides* were noted. *Acianthus caudatus* was widespread and *Leptoceras menziesii* was abundant on a couple of coastal sites. Even the odd *Caladenia deformis* (syn. *Pheladenia deformis*) was still in flower. At one site on Three Chain Road it was good to see some patches of a Helmet Orchid (probably *Corybas diemenicus*) sending up healthy seed capsules on stout stems despite the dryness. It is always pleasing to see some successful natural pollination in harsh conditions.

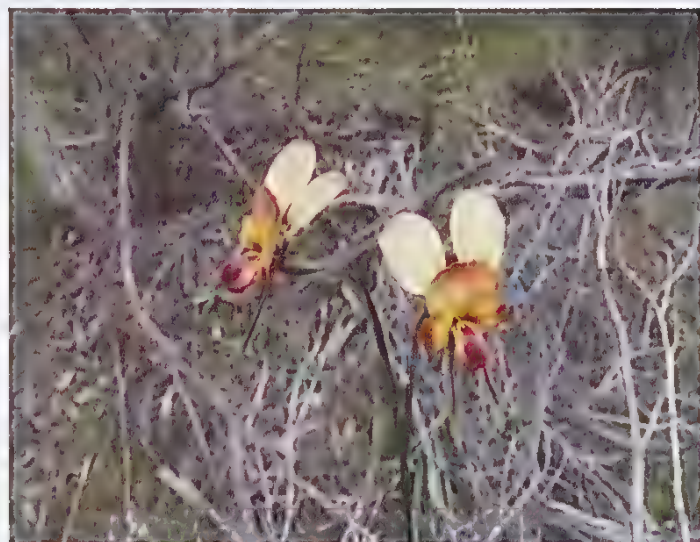
Despite the dry conditions we were able to see a wide range of wildflowers in bloom, and while some plants carried few flowers, many really drew your attention away from the orchid flora. It was a bit of a surprise to be able to photograph many of the plants listed as very rare in the local flora publications. Probably it is the familiar situation where species thought to be rare can be reasonably abundant due to confusion with similar common plants, or lack of detailed survey at the key flowering times.

Evening discussions over a red or two were very interesting, especially with debate over similar species having different scientific names in each

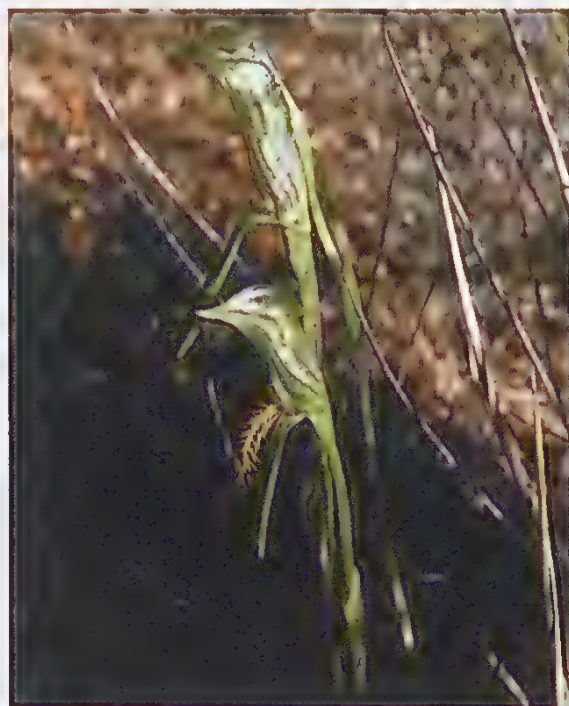
southern state. For example, I was very confused over naming of the two *Caladenia filamentosa* varieties in Victoria, versus *C. capillata* and *C. sanguinea* in South Australia. As an amateur botanist, I can't see much difference between the plants I have been able to see over the last 40 years in both states. I might add that I am no less confused with taxonomy between state borders, as Andrew Brown suggests that *Caladenia microchila* in Western Australia has more than a lot in common with these species, particularly with the specimens of *C. capillata* seen on this trip.

The trip was a week well spent, and thanks to everyone for their company and sharing of their knowledge.

Geoff is a naturalist and amateur botanist from western Victoria.



Diuris orientis Prospect Hill Area



Pterostylis aff. *plumosa* South Coast Hwy Karatta

A Surfeit of *Sarcochilus*

Text and photographs Roslyn Capell

Surfeit is not really the right word since it means overabundance, and I don't believe there can ever be too many *Sarcochilus*, but I was set on sibilance and surfeit was the best I could do. Early last year I decided I was overdue for a trip to Sydney to see some *Sarcochilus* shows. There had been significant changes in the sarc world since I stopped travelling to Sydney regularly, and I needed to catch up. I was particularly keen to see Neville Roper's recent hybrids, so I arranged to visit and be part of the AOC judging panel for the Revesby Workers' Australian Native Orchid Club Show at Panania on 17th October 2015. In the week before the trip I learned that the ANOS Sydney Group *Sarcochilus* Show was on same day, so I could go there too, but the real bonus was that Barrita Orchids' Open Day would be held on the 18th. That opportunity was too good to miss, so I changed my travel plans to allow for the detour to Kulnura.

Revesby Workers Show

This was judged early Saturday morning. I was hoping to see some of Neville Roper's yellow *Sarcochilus* hybrids such as *S. Coolendel*, *S. Sunny*, and *S. Amber*, which I had only seen in photos. I remember when the first "poached egg" *Sarcochilus* hybrids – now believed to be albinistic progeny of *S. hartmannii* 'Red Snow' – first appeared and I am enamoured with those clear, vibrant yellows. Neville Roper and David Butler both pursued this line of breeding, but also introduced some of the epiphytic Australian *Aeridinae* (formerly *Sarcanthinae*) species such as *S. spathulatus*, *S. dilatatus*, *S. hirticalcar*, and *Plectorrhiza tridentata* to increase the range of colours and colour combinations. Those epiphytes can add a different yellow, and also rust, ginger and green.

When I left Sydney in 2005, the line of *S. hirticalcar*-influenced reds was well established, and some of the yellows and greens and art shades from the twig epiphytes were being seen in first-flowering seedlings. We are now seeing the results of further advances with reds, and the original seedlings with the twig epiphytes are

being benched as mature plants with multiple inflorescences. The whites, pinks and pinky-reds from past decades have been joined by solid-colour vibrant yellow, apricot, peach, rusty red, clear blood-red, pale cream, soft yellows and greens – some delicately spotted, some heavily blotched – as well as multi-coloured flowers in combinations of art shades.

When Ira Butler commenced his *Sarcochilus* hybridising program in the late 1950s, his stated goal was to produce hardy plants of easy culture, similar to the larger flowered *Sarcochilus* such as *S. hartmannii*, with flowers of different colours. If he could have seen the shows I visited last October, he would have been well pleased with the achievements of his successors.

At the Revesby Workers' show I saw what I think is the epitome of rich, velvety, blood-red, in a plant of *S. Bewitch* (*S. Duno Nicky's Twin* x *S. Karla*), a cross registered by Neville Roper in 2014. The main species in its' background are *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii* in roughly equal parts, with about 13% *S. hirticalcar* to enrich and "redde" the red, plus a dash of *S. ceciliae*. Absolutely stunning! There was also a very fine mature plant of *S. Magic* 'Macros' benched by Lloyd Edwards, and it received an Award of Merit from the AOC panel. *Sarcochilus Magic* is *S. Duno Nicky's Twin* x *S. Zoe*, and contains the same species as *S. Bewitch* in roughly the same proportions. *Sarcochilus Magic* produced many good reds and Neville Roper received an Award of Special Recognition for it from the Australian Orchid Council in 2009.

There were a number of other AOC awards granted, including another Award of Special Recognition to Neville Roper for a *S. hartmannii* cross. Three of those plants of *S. hartmannii* were granted quality awards at the show. My favourite was *S. hartmannii* 'White Bull' which received an Award of Merit. It has round, filled in shape and flat segments, with a sprinkle of clearly defined red dots at the centre.

There was a lovely golden yellow plant benched –



Sarcophilus Myola



Sarcophilus Space Race 'Yellow 2014'



Sarcophilus Kulnura Lemon



Sarcophilus Soft Touch



Sarcophilus Kulnura Wild 'Rust'

S. Xanthia (*S. Gail* x *S. Roberta*), another Neville Roper registration from 2014 comprising only *S. hartmannii*, *S. fitzgeraldii*, and a tiny bit of *S. falcatus*, but coloured pure yellow – scrambled eggs rather than poached eggs. I also saw the finest *S. Fitzhart* I have seen - *S. Fitzhart* ‘Rusty Bucket Freddie’ AM/AOC 2012 (NSW).

The plant that made the most impact on me was *S. Kulnura Wild* ‘Rust’, one of Scott Barrie’s crosses for Barrita Orchids, registered in 2013. *Sarcochilus Kulnura Wild* is *S. Rebecca* x *S. Fitzhart*, and primarily *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii*, with just a dash of *S. olivaceous*, but the colour is an extraordinary shade of what I would call tangerine rather than rust. A mouth-watering gem!

Neville Roper passed away on 6th November 2015. According to my count, Neville registered 126 Australian *Aeridinae* crosses of which he was the originator, the vast majority being *Sarcochilus* but there were also a few *Plectochilus*, a *Rhinochilus*, and even a *Sarcoschistotylus*. His orchids received 72 quality awards and 18 Awards of Distinction for his *Sarcochilus* and *Plectochilus* from the AOC, as well as two Awards of Special Recognition. Neville’s achievements are perpetuated in the ongoing hybridising work of breeders such as David Butler, Scott Barrie, Kevin Western and Lloyd Edwards.

Sydney Group Show

I managed the trip from Panania to Sydney Group’s show at West Pennant Hills with only one wrong turn. I was greeted by a fine display of *Sarcochilus*, this time with emphasis on David Butler’s breeding, but also plants of Neville’s crosses. There was a luminous rich yellow first-flowering seedling of *S. Myola* (*S. Gail* x *S. Cliona*, registered 2013), which was obviously a product of albinistic *S. hartmannii* breeding, and a fine mature exhibit of *S. Amber*.

If I am mainly discussing the yellows and art shades, that is only because they are the ones I was particularly keen to see. There were lovely hybrids in all colours on display at both shows. At Sydney Group there was a strikingly fluorescent cerise-coloured *S. Heidi* ‘DW Best Pink’. I wouldn’t be

surprised if this turned out to be *S. Heidi* ‘Best Pink’ HCC/AOC 2008 (NSW), as it looked very much like the award photos and the owner of the awarded plant had the initials “DW” (Dennis Wood). It is amazing how a solid-colour deep pink like that can result from using two species which have white flowers with red centres.

Four plants from David Butler’s breeding caught my particular attention. *Sarcochilus Space Race* ‘Yellow 2014’ is a sparkling pale yellow with a red centre and comprises 87.5% *S. hartmannii* with the balance equal amounts of *S. hirticalcar* and *S. dilatatus*. This is an example of what can happen when someone has the imagination to foresee the potential benefits of introducing a colourful but poorly shaped or small flowered epiphytic species, and then crossing the results onto *S. hartmannii* for a few generations to improve shape. *Sarcochilus Space Race* is *S. Galaxy* x *S. hartmannii*, registered by David in 2015. *Sarcochilus Galaxy* is *S. Misty* x *S. hartmannii*, (David Butler, 2008). *Sarcochilus Misty* is *S. Aussie Dawn* x *S. Riverdene* (David Butler, 2001). *Sarcochilus Aussie Dawn* is *S. hartmannii* x *S. dilatatus* (Phil Spence, 1987). *Sarcochilus Riverdene* is *S. hartmannii* x *S. hirticalcar* (V. & N. Jupp, 1976).

Sarcochilus Misty’s Twin was another of David Butler’s plants that caught my eye. It has obvious *S. hirticalcar* influence in its colour and the shape of the labellum, but with broader segments and rounder overall shape. It was registered by David in 2011. It is *S. Misty* x *S. Duno Nicky*’s Twin. *Sarcochilus Duno Nicky*’s Twin is *S. Nicky* x *S. Fitzhart* (DUNO, 1998), *S. Nicky* is *S. fitzgeraldii* x *S. hirticalcar* (D. Cannon, 1982). *Sarcochilus Fitzhart* was registered by Ira Butler in 1963.

The third plant was *S. Soft Touch*, registered by David Butler in 2012. This was a mature plant with five, maybe more, inflorescences, and large, flat, round white flowers with a broad ring of concentric ginger-brown bars around the centre. It is *S. Velvet* x *S. hartmannii*. *Sarcochilus Velvet* is *S. Nicky* x *S. Riverdene* (N. Finch, 1998). Very appealing in a more traditional style but having that unusual ginger-brown, and with the *S. hirticalcar* influence it might flower at other times of the year, or for a longer period.

The fourth plant was a first-flowering seedling, *S. Evening Star* (*S. Galaxy* x *S. Duno Nicky's Twin*), registered in 2015. This little gem comprises 50% *S. hartmannii*, 25% *S. fitzgeraldii*, and roughly 18% *S. hirticalcar* and 6% *S. dilatatus*. The influence of the last two is obvious in the colour, which is a base of yellow heavily overlaid by shades of rich, rusty, ginger.

ANOS Sydney Group shows always have a lot of fine species exhibits and this one was no exception. As well as the usual benching of high quality *S. hartmannii*, I noticed a very nice mounted plant of one of the late-flowering forms of *S. falcatus*, and a particularly well-flowered *S. serrulatus*. I have since found out that the ANOS panel that judged the show granted an Award of Merit to the *S. falcatus*, and it is now *S. falcatus* 'Big White #1' AM/ANOS, owned by David Butler. The panel also granted an AM/ANOS to David's *S. hartmannii* 'Baby Blue BS #2', HCC/ANOS to *S. Serenade* 'Lots of White', and AM/ANOS to Michael Harrison's *Dendrobium malbournii* 'Bella'.

Barrita Orchids

Sunday morning I drove to Kulnura to Barrita's open day. I was blown away by the display! It reminded me of the District Exhibits at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, but instead of sections of apples and lemons, there were sections filled with different coloured *Sarcochilus*. Rusty oranges, then yellows, then reds, whites, pinks, then more reds but a different shade, whites with red centres, different reds and dark pinks, then whites with yellow centres, and finally more pinks. There were hundreds of plants in an incredible display, which I have never seen before and will not soon forget.

Where to start? I saw *S. Kulnura Kaleidescope* 'Blazing Gold' AD/AOC 2014 (NSW), the mango-coloured beauty with a sparkling texture that was the judged to be the AOC Award of Distinction of the Year for 2014. The main species in its breeding is *S. hartmannii* (about 70%) plus about 22% *S. fitzgeraldii*, a little *S. hirticalcar* and a tiny bit of *S. falcatus*. Also *S. Val* 'Sprite' HCC/AOC 2014 (NSW), which is an example of modern *S. hartmannii* & *S. fitzgeraldii* breeding.

It is a good solid white with red markings, but the markings are a deep pinky red, and in the form of well-defined large dots rather than the more solid-coloured or barred red centres often seen in earlier breeding of this type. Barrita Orchids received an ASR for the *S. Val* cross (which is *S. Sweetheart* x *S. Heidi*) in 2014.

Scott has succeeded in breeding some very well-shaped, floriferous pinks that have even and consistent markings on the flowers, without much variation in the amount of colour per flower down the inflorescence. That inconsistency and variation was a major issue with many of the earlier pinks. *Sarcochilus* Kulnura Emotion 'Allover' x *S. Kulnura Dazzel* 'Clear Dots' seems very promising, and there were a number of plants of that cross in flower. I particularly liked a couple of the plants of *S. Kulnura Dazzel* 'Clear Dots' x *S. Rosella* 'Spotty', which had very well-defined vibrant pink spots on clear white backgrounds.

At Barrita I saw round flowers with broad segments throughout the entire range of colours. In the white & yellow category, a seedling of *S. Parma* 'Lemon' x *S. Roberta* 'Good Yellow' caught my attention. It was white with yellow markings in the centre and a yellow picotee edge on the petals and sepals. *Sarcochilus* Parma has a little *S. spathulatus* in its background, but other than that both parents are comprised only of *S. hartmannii* and *S. fitzgeraldii*. This seems to be another plant from Neville Roper's *S. hartmannii* 'Red Snow' - "When Red Becomes Yellow" - breeding. In the "something different" category, my eye was caught by a group of reds with yellow peloric markings on the petals, particularly *S. Kulnura Vibrance* '7' x *S. Rebecca* 'Red Beauty'.

The plant I want to see when it grows up is the seedling of *S. Bonanza* 'Big Pat' x *S. Sweetheart* 'Speckles', benched at the Revesby Workers' Show. It is one of Scott Barrie's crosses. It was a young plant but the flowers had full round shape with broad petals overlapping the sepals, and lateral sepals that almost touched. It had a very attractive colour combination of a well-defined band of deep rose pink at the edges of the segments, then a white halo and a broad band of red bars around the centre, and the colour was consistent from flower to flower. I envy the owner

of that plant!

My trip to Sydney was time and money well spent, and my craving for *Sarcochilus* sated for the time being.

Roslyn Capell is an ANOS and AOC judge from NSW and a past president of ANOS Inc.
capell666@ozemail.com.au



Sarcochilus (Kulnura Dazzel 'Clear Dots' x Rosella 'Spotty')



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Dendrobium schoeninum – Much Maligned ‘Messy’ Orchid

Neville Lee nevillel@ozemail.com.au

I was born in the small Hunter Valley town of Dungog, NSW, and given my first orchid, a *Dendrobium falcorostrum*, in 1974. At that time Dungog was mainly involved in the timber and dairying industries. I have been a member of ANOS Central Coast Group for 26 years. My main interest and passion is the terete leaved orchids included in *Dendrobium* section *Rhizobium*. I suspect we all have read articles or heard, via general conversation, where *D. schoeninum* has been described as a ‘messy’ or ‘untidy’ plant in its growth habit with straggly yellow/brown stems growing in all directions and leaves becoming smaller in size along the arching stems that can be up to one metre in length. No names – no pack drill, but I have seen plants that, because of their growth, have been removed from the shade-house and hung somewhere in the garden, covered in cobwebs and a ‘nirvana’ for spiders that make it their homes.

Some years ago Phil Spence of Orchids Productions, Wamberal, gave a talk for ANOS Central Coast Group on his methods of growing *D. schoeninum*. Phil described his method of regularly trimming the stems into a compact form to maintain a structured shape yet still allowing for normal flowering each year. *Dendrobium schoeninum* is easily grown either in pots or as mounts. It establishes quickly using whatever method you prefer but, can require that little bit of attention to maintain its shape. The frequency and amount of trimming will be dictated by the size of the plant you wish to grow. Col Fitzsimmons of Fitzsimmons Orchids, Belmont, grows his *D. schoeninum* in pots, and has kindly provided some photos showing his method of trimming. The original piece came from a family property at Copeland near Gloucester, NSW. *Dendrobium schoeninum* ‘Josh’ mentioned by Peter Adams (*The Orchadian* Dec. 2015) is a piece from this plant.

I have found my plants quickly take to mounts using either gutter guard pots, or cork or slabs. I prefer trimming back to the third or fourth leaf but this can be whatever size you wish depending on the space you have. If using gutter guard pots, I find it an advantage to make the pot some

time in advance so that the mix has time to settle before the plant is attached. Watering and fertilizing is the same as for other dendrobiums. I have regularly used this method for a number of years. If you find trimming a bit drastic, I suggest you experiment with one plant and compare with other *D. schoeninum* in your collection. The trimmed plants grow and flower well after they have been reduced in size.

From one plant in 1974, to over 700 teretes currently in my collection, I have found my orchids a very satisfying and productive hobby.

Acknowledgements: Thank you to Phil Spence and Col Fitzsimmons for their contributions.

Neville is from NSW and is a grower of many Dendrobium section Rhizobium hybrids and species.



D. schoeninum from main plant pruned over two years



D. schoeninum main plant at 10 years ready for next pruning

Unusual Method of Asexual Reproduction in *Dendrobium speciosum*

Text and photographs Gerry Walsh
rocklilyman@gmail.com

Dendrobium speciosum in any of its nine accepted varieties is not commonly known to produce aerial growths. All varieties do occasionally send out aerial growths from the apical end of a mature leafless or leaved pseudobulb. In general terms however, it is not a frequent occurrence. Aerials can also initiate from any dormant 'eye' along a mature pseudobulb. In some cases where a plant has germinated in full sun and grown to flowering size, then these eyes can be found right along the whole pseudobulb. With *D. speciosum*, it can also happen when an emerging flower raceme changes its mind and decides to become a pseudobulb instead. Once again this is not a very common event but if you have grown *D. speciosum* for a few years it is probably something you have observed for yourself.

Aerials are far more common in cultivation than in the wild condition. If too much water is applied to a plant growing in old soggy potting mix then the plant will sometimes initiate aerials in response. It will sense that its years are numbered and normal reproduction from the eyes at the base of mature pseudobulbs will quickly cease, or they will rot off when they do begin growing.

Flowering will also often cease with such neglected plants. If so, the available eyes can occasionally switch to the production of aerial growths as another method of survival. This is the very best reason to make sure you don't let your pots become too moisture retentive. Repot before it happens please!

Aerials are often seen when back bulbs from select speciosums are planted in the hope of obtaining new specimens. I use back bulbs frequently and if those bulbs are past it then all is not lost. Aerials will sometimes form. Later on they can be removed from the back bulb and planted out like a seedling. As I mentioned at the start, aerials are far less common in wild plants but they can occur.

There is a colony of *D. speciosum* var. *boreale* that I have been watching since June 1994. In that year I was exploring along a small cliff line amongst the rainforest of the Atherton Tableland. Since then I have visited the location on seven occasions. My last visit was in August 2010. In

that year I had decided to investigate var. *boreale* across a large expanse of its range. I had realised that my baseline knowledge was inadequate in the face of newly published information concerning what constituted var. *boreale*. I made three trips to the Atherton district that year. Naturally I returned to the colony that I had known from 1994. This time I assessed the population with much critical attention. I came up with one really surprising observation. In this colony, being about four hectares in extent, but near vertical at some points, I observed a profusion of aerial growths on many of the adult specimens of *D. speciosum* present. Despite my six previous visits, this was the first time I had seen them flowering *in situ*. Not that this made any difference to my observations. Still, it caused me to take many photos of those plants.

In the comfort and calm of my lounge room I worked out that the number of aerials present on the plants was very high indeed, in fact out of all proportion to any other colony of any other variety of *D. speciosum* in Australia that I had come across.



Original plant collected as an aerial in June 1994, with developing raceme

During all my visits since the first one in 1994, I sampled a few pieces and grew them very successfully back home in Sydney. When the bush houses were critically observed for evidence of aerials within, I discovered that plants from this colony nearly all had aerials, in some cases up to twenty years after original collection. I now knew that aerializing was inherent, even after two decades of captivity. Why had I not taken notice

of this strange happening before?



A division of the original plant in 2014, a mass of aerals.

I have now seen many specimens of var. *boreale* from colonies all over the Atherton Tableland. This is a wide ranging expanse of territory and spreads from north of Cooktown and as far south as Mt Elliot near Townsville. In some locations I observed hundreds of specimens during long day trips. Two aerals were seen on plants from the northern Atherton Tableland area but this is normal within a large volume of plants such as the ones seen that day. These two aerals were tiny and hardly worth mentioning. In another location several hundred plants were observed and not one aerial was noticed.

Back home in the bush house, I examined specimens from widespread locations, given to me by friendly growers. Locations were Windsor Tableland, The Big Tableland, and as far south as The Pinnacles and Mt. Elliot. No aerial growths have occurred with any of these plants. Nearly all specimens originating from my special location, grown for many years, have frequently pushed up aerial growths. The mother plants have all grown well.

In the wild, the colony with this aerial trait represents around 70 to 100 specimens of flowering size plants. The area is much larger however and I hope to explore further in the future. It is difficult to imagine that the habit could change in a further kilometre of similar country. So many of these plants are untidy looking and not particularly attractive. Aerials in some cases were flowering from pseudobulbs which were still attached to the mother bulb. The rock face

I examined was under low scrubby rainforest for want of a better description. This was due no doubt to the very steep nature of the location. Other species seen in the vicinity included *D. jonesii*, *D. agrostophyllum* and *D. taylorii*. About five species of *Bulbophyllum* were seen as well as *Sarcochilus roseus* growing on the rock beside the *D. speciosum*. The area was typical of the Atherton region really.

Newly establishing aerials from the *D. speciosum* plants could easily be seen lying where they had fallen and were starting to extend new roots into the plentiful leaf litter present. In some cases this looked odd. Occasional plants with just one bulb were seen to be flowering. Obviously they were taking root and had not produced a second new bulb. Still they were in flower on a plant consisting of just one bulb! How strange.

In my location there were plants that had no aerials. I noticed that virtually all the *D. speciosum* were growing on rock. I think that centuries of falling aerial bulbs taking root on the rock is the cause of this observation. Some of the larger specimen plants were growing in pure dirt at the base of the rock face. Aerials tumble all the way to ground level at times but they appear to successfully establish without the rock substrate. Only around three plants were noticed growing on trees. Very disproportionate I think. The trees were full of *D. jonesii*, which were also in bloom, so they were quite suitable to house other orchid species. Blooms seen on the flowering plants in this location were no different to any seen on var. *boreale* from all over its distribution.

Finally, I believe my observations are quite interesting and unique for *D. speciosum*. Two years ago I flew to north Queensland and hired a vehicle and travelled a long way, only to be blocked by a fallen tree when around 10 kilometres from my destination. My intention was to do a much larger examination of the colony. Sometimes the best laid plans can fail at the last moment. One day soon I will most definitely complete the task. I'll let you know what happens!

Gerry Walsh is a D. speciosum specialist and breeder.

Book Review – *A Guide to Dendrobium of Australia*

It is a little difficult for me to write a review of Peter Adams's book on Australian dendrobiums, as I was involved in providing suggestions and corrections during the writing process and, in fact, provided a 'message' at the front of the book. However, I intend to have a go and risk the charge of being too much an insider. Bearing that in mind, there will not be many criticisms in the following lines and I will concentrate on describing the book and its significance.

This is the fourth book in a series on the dendrobiums of the world published by Datuk Chan Chew Lun, managing director of Natural History Publications, Borneo. The other volumes are *A Guide to Dendrobium of Borneo* (Jeffrey J. Wood), *A Guide to Dendrobium of The Philippines* (Jim Cootes and George Tiong) and *A Guide to Dendrobium of New Guinea* (André Schuiteman). All the books in this series, and other books produced by this publisher, are beautifully illustrated with high quality colour photographs. The format is small, approximately A5, with 150 pages all in colour. The chapters include 'History of Discovery', 'The Variety of Australian Dendrobiums', 'Habitats', 'Classification and Taxonomy of *Dendrobium* in Australia', 'Pollination', 'Key to the Sections', and 'The Species'. There is a Foreword by the doyen of *Dendrobium* scientists, Dr Phillip Cribb.

The other books in this series deal with areas with numerous species in the genus *Dendrobium*. However, in the case of Australia with only 60 species, it has been possible to include all species and all subspecies and varieties as well, resulting in illustrations and descriptions of some 80 taxa in all. This should make this book useful for identification, in addition to providing a summary of knowledge of this group on the continent of Australia. To aid in identification a key to the 18 Australian sections of the genus is provided. Perhaps it will come as no surprise, given the recent contributions by Peter Adams to the international consensus in *Genera Orchidacearum* Vol. 6, that all the Australian species are included in the genus *Dendrobium*. This means that old familiar names *Cadetia*, *Flickingeria* and *Diplocaulobium* are all here included in *Dendrobium*. This is a position I thoroughly endorse. If it is desired to recognise these genera, then it would be necessary to recognise dozens of other genera and I believe that the characters that unite these taxa

are greater than those that separate them.

This statement, of course, is a gross over-simplification and Peter, along with other colleagues, has produced evidence to support the consensus view with detailed population studies and DNA sequencing of this group.

But now to more mundane considerations. The bulk of this book (pages 23 to 139) is dedicated to illustrations and descriptions of each taxon. Each species and most subspecies and varieties are allocated a full page each with, where possible, a photograph of the plant in its habitat and a close-up of the flowers. For example nine varieties of *Dendrobium speciosum* are described with a full page devoted to each. In addition to the photographs on the page of each taxon, there are 24 full page illustrations which add to the attractiveness of the book. The standard of the images is first class and some are of rarely-illustrated taxa. The taxa are described under the headings: 'Description', 'Habitat and Ecology', 'Flowering Time', 'Distribution', 'Culture' and 'Notes'. The descriptions are, of necessity brief, averaging less than 100 words.

This is one of the best books on Australian orchids published in many years – being both useful and attractive. It also has the advantage of being compact and low cost. It is available from Orchidaceous Books at the very modest price of \$23, and \$25 from other outlets.

Bill Lavarack is an orchid botanist and writer.



ANOS Far North Coast Group's 2015 Spring Show

Roslyn Capell

ANOS Far North Coast Group Inc. held its 2015 Spring Show at the Ballina RSL Club in conjunction with Ballina Orchid Society's Spring Show. It was held on Friday 28th & Saturday 29th August and judged on Friday morning by members of the ANOS Northern Region judging panel, which is based in Brisbane.

The judging didn't commence until 10 am so at least the judges didn't have to leave home too early to get to Ballina in time, and Keith and Nell Skaines provided the travellers with morning tea at their home before the judging. The show was well supported, and there was a good display of Australian orchids to balance the exotics benched on the Ballina Orchid Society side of the room.

This year's Grand Champion was also Champion Native Species: *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *curvicaule* ('Daylight Moon' x 'Palmerston') owned by Bevan Burnham. Reserve Champion was Keith Skaines' bright pink *D. Warringah*, which was also Champion Native Hybrid and Best Specimen. Keith also won Champion Australasian Orchid with a *Dendrobium* section *Latouria* hybrid.

Champion Seedling was Kevin Foster's *Dendrobium* (Julie Tydd x Starsheen) x *D. speciosum* 'Ted'. Kevin also won the ribbon for Best Culture with his very well grown *D. discolor* which had three good inflorescences of rich gold flowers and excellent clean foliage. The plant was growing vigorously and responding to Kevin's growing techniques, each cane being taller and thicker than the previous one. Champion Novice Orchid was a *Microtis* species from Tintenbar, benched by Thaleh Smith.

In 2016 ANOS Far North Coast Group's Spring Show will be held on 25th to 27th August and it will be at the old venue at Ballina Fair.



D. Warringah - Champion Hybrid ANOS Far North Coast 2015



D. (Julie Tydd x Starsheen) x D. speciosum 'Ted' - Champion Seedling ANOS Far North Coast 2015



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Thursday 1st Sept – Sunday 4th Sept [Closed for judging on Friday 2nd between 8-30 am and 1-00 pm]

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Electronic brochure with locality map, joint show schedule and associated events is available by e-mailing John Zietsch: anosmidnorthcoast@hotmail.com

OR contact Ted Walmsley on (02) 6562-7150 or John Zietsch on (02) 6554-9733.

ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group Australasian Spring Show 2015

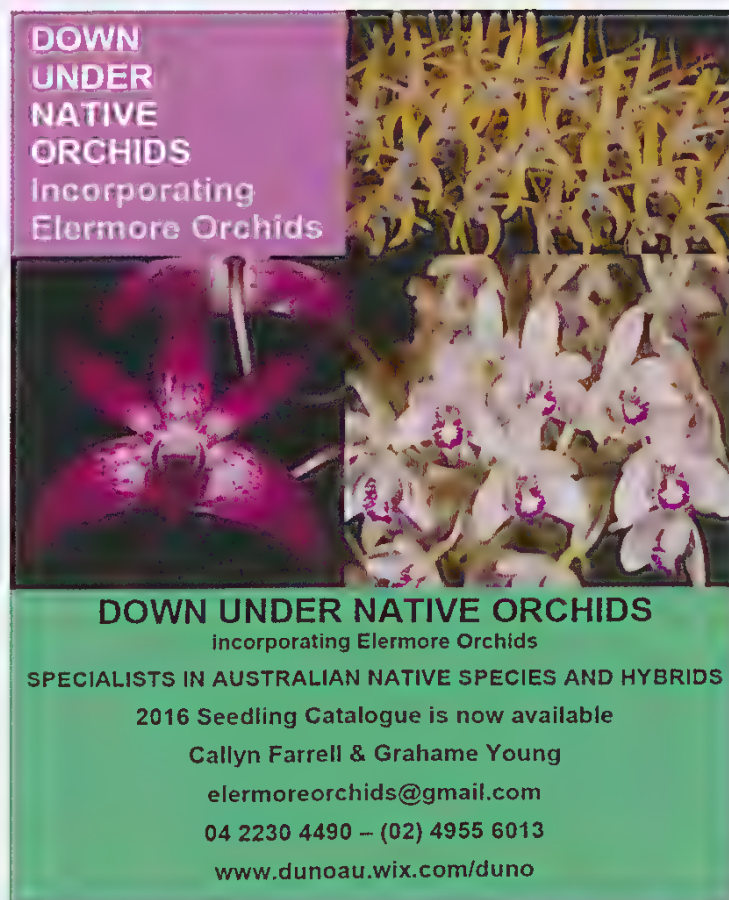
Rob McAllister

The Kabi Group's spring show was held on 22-23 August in the Bald Hills State School Hall. In 2014 the show was on one of the most miserably wet weekends of the year and visitors stayed at home, but this year the weather gods smiled and attendance was up nearly seventy percent, making it one of the best ever results! Many growers complained that it wasn't a normal season, whatever a normal season might be, and that the timing of flowering was out of kilter. Despite this, the exhibitors benched almost as many plants as in past shows and used every available table. Overall there was a spectacular display of orchids for visitors - as good as any previous show except the 2013 Conference.

Dendrobium speciosum was the highlight of the show, making up a quarter of the plants, filling up the benches, and dominating the Champion table. Large numbers of section *Dendrocoryne* and hot/cold hybrids added a riot of colour.

The Kabi Group Show does not have a Grand or Reserve Champion but has a Champion Species, Champion Hybrid and Champion Specimen. Champion Specimen was *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* 'Samford Snowdrift', Champion Species was *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* 'Snowdrop' and Champion Hybrid was *D.* Bronze Belle 'Deejee'. The three champions received ANOS awards as detailed in this issue and the Champion Specimen an Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC). The photographic sections were a great innovation and attracted over fifty entries, mostly of plants rarely seen flowering at the show or in cultivation.

The 2016 spring show will be changing venue to the Tom Petrie Room at the Strathpine Community Centre, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine (entry off Mecklem Street) on 27-28 August.



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Shows and Events

- **ANOS Newcastle Autumn Show**
Weekend of 16-17 April 2016 Cardiff Bowling Club, 175 Myall Road, Cardiff NSW 2285.
- **ANOS Macarthur Autumn Show**
Saturday 7th May 2016 Rosemeadow Marketplace, Rosemeadow 2560.
- **ANOS Kabi Group Inc. Show**
Weekend of 27th & 28th August 2016 Tom Petrie room, Strathpine Community Centre, 199 Gympie Road, Strathpine. Parking & entry off Mecklem Street.
- **ANOS Far North Coast Group Show**
Thursday 25 August to Saturday 27 August 2016 Ballina Fair Shopping Centre, 84 Kerr Street, Ballina, NSW.
- **ANOS Newcastle Spring Show**
Weekend of 27-28 August 2016 Windale - Gateshead Bowling Club, 2A Lake Street, Windale 2306.
- **ANOS Western Australia Inc. Show**
Weekend of 27-28 August 2016 (from 9am) Cannington Showgrounds Hall
- **8th ANOS Conference & Show Kempsey** in conjunction with **Speciosum Spectacular**
Friday 2nd September 2016 until Sunday 4th , Kempsey Dirt Bike Trake, Greenhill via Kempsey. Set up Thursday 1st September, Judging Friday morning.
- **ANOS Illawarra Spring Show**
Weekend of 10-11 September 2016 Old Courthouse, Cliff Road, Wollongong 2500
- **ANOS Warringah Spring Show**
Weekend of 10-11 September Forestville Memorial Hall - Starkey Street, Forestville 2087
- **Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc. Show**
Friday 16 September to Monday 19 September 2016 Saint John's Lutheran Church Hall, 431 Bridge Street (Warrego Highway), Wilsonton, Toowoomba.
- **ANOS Sydney Group Spring Show**
Weekend of 17-18 September Eden Gardens (Pandorea Room) 301-307 Lane Cove Road, North Ryde 2113
- **ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Inc. Spring Show**
Saturday 24th September 2016 Montrose Town Centre, 935 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Montrose.
- **ANOS Victoria Inc. Show**
Weekend of 24-25 September 2016 Mt. Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent Mt Waverley 3149.
- **ANOS Illawarra Spring Show**
Weekend of 15-16 October 2016 Old Courthouse, Cliff Road, Wollongong 2500.
- **ANOS Sydney Group Sarcophilus Show**
Saturday 15th October 2016 Community Church, 41-43 Eaton Road, West Pennant Hills.
- **ANOS Newcastle Sarcophilus Show**
Weekend of 15-16 October 2016 Windale - Gateshead Bowling Club, 2A Lake Street, Windale 2306.
- **ANOS Geelong Annual Orchid Show**
Saturday 5th November, 9am - 4pm, Uniting Church Hall, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong 3220.

8th ANOS Conference details are available from the ANOS Inc website (www.anos.org.au and by clicking on the conference tab).

***Dendrobium* Bronze Belle ‘Deejee’ HCC/ANOS 2015**

Dave Groffen
Ferny Grove, Qld

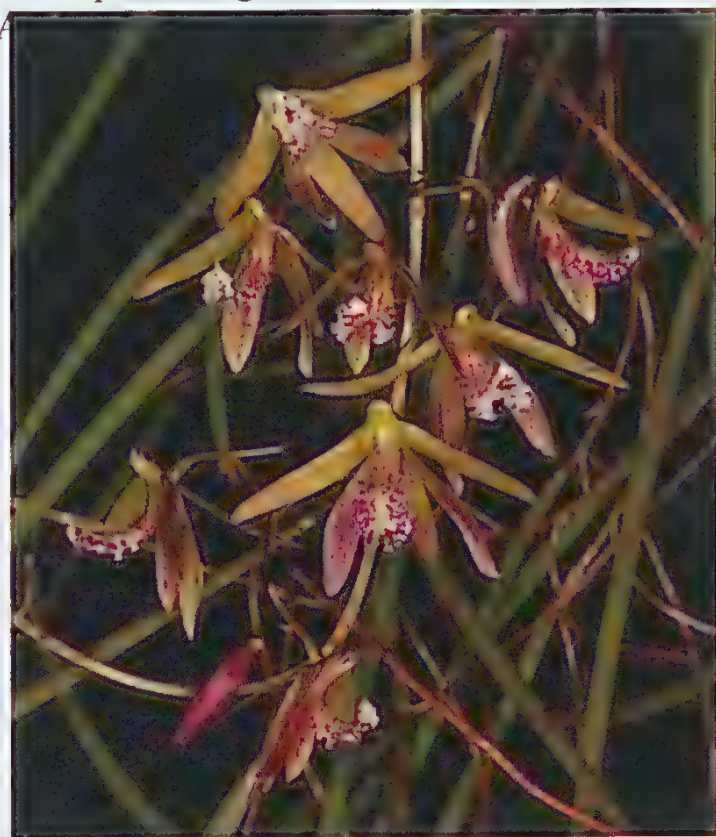
We often congratulate the wrong person when an orchid is awarded, especially when it is a hybrid. In this case this is even more true than usual! I was given this plant by Wayne Harris in 2012, along with 4 other *Dendrobium* section *Rhizobium* hybrids. Wayne is one of the most knowledgeable botanists in the land, not just with regard to Australian orchids. However, he grows species and is not too interested in giving space to hybrids. When he was given a number of these plants he generously passed them on to me and other friends. I don't know where he originally acquired them.

According to the RHS registration web site the hybrid between *D. fuliginosum* and *D. Julie Skillicorn* was registered as *D. Bronze Belle* in 1997 by G. Leafberg, who was listed as the originator. A quick search of the web came up with Grahame Leafberg, a well-known grower and hybridiser in New Zealand. Whether or not he made the cross which produced this plant or whether it is a remake by someone else is not certain. In either case, congratulations to all concerned. Hybridising is a lot of effort for not too much reward, especially for plants with a limited market. Not many hybridisers of Australian plants drive Rolls Royces!

The plant was already in a 100 mm pot when received and I have not re-potted it since that time, though this will happen soon. My sole contribution to the outcome was to take it home, hang it in my bush house under 50% shade cloth and water/fertilise it along with every other orchid. It is quite a mixed collection and for better or worse everything is watered twice per week in summer (more if very hot) and once per week in winter. Fertiliser is applied fortnightly with higher nitrogen formula from September to December. Because I use rainwater, and the Grow Force fertiliser I like has no calcium, I also apply a weak solution of calcium nitrate once a month with a watering in which no other fertiliser is used.

When *D. Bronze Belle* first flowered for me in

2014 I thought it was OK but there were not many flowers and I didn't think it was good enough to show. In 2015 it flowered profusely and the flower quality was fairly good, so I took it to the Kabi Group Show in August with low expectations. I was quite pleased when the judges awarded it first in class and then very surprised when it was nominated for Champion, even more so when it won. Then it was considered for an award and a HCC was granted. Just goes to illustrate that you should never judge your own plants, you're just too close to them to be objective. On reflection it was a very nicely shaped and coloured flower of good size for its breeding, with the flower count more than adequate. It is currently growing well and hopes are high for another good flowering in



D. Bronze Belle ‘Deejee’ HCC/ANOS 2015

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***Dendrobium speciosum* var.
hillii ‘Samford Snowdrift’ and
‘Snowdrop’**

Rhonda and Ross Harvey
Cedarvale Orchids

Dendrobium speciosum var. *hillii* ‘Samford Snowdrift’ ACC/ANOS 2015 and *D. speciosum* var. *hillii* ‘Snowdrop’ HCC/ANOS 2015 are both ‘wild collected’. These plants were salvaged many years ago from forestry logging operations in the Mount Glorious area of the D’Aguilar Range to the north-west of Brisbane, and purchased from the then Department of Forestry. The plants were collected prior to 1999 during a forestry push organised by the Native Orchid Society of Queensland. The collection site is more probably Mt. Mee given the greater number of collects done by NOSQ at Mt. Mee – one or two were at Mt. Glorious. These plants are grown in shallow plastic pots, using a potting medium of coarse bark and charcoal mix, under 50% shade and with good ventilation.

The plants flower well every year, especially now

that they are large specimens. They are very floriferous, with great presentation, length of racemes, and size of flower, however the specimen plant ‘Samford Snowdrift’ has smaller flowers than ‘Snowdrop’.



Dendrobium speciosum var. *hillii* ‘Snowdrop’
HCC/ANOS 2015 (Qld)



Dendrobium speciosum var. *hillii* ‘Samford Snowdrift’ ACC/ANOS 2015 (Qld)

Awards

#229 *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* 'Snowdrop' HCC/ANOS 2015 (QLD)

Points: 78.30

Owner: Cerdarvale Orchids

Date :2015-Aug-22

Event: Kabi Group Show

Photos by: Jon Cara

Number of flowers 883, buds 13,
inflorescences 8

Detailed average points:

Shape(25): 19.6

Colour(20): 16 Size(15): 11.8

Substance/texture(10): 7.6

Floriferousness(15): 11.6 Habit(15): 11.5

Measurements in mm:

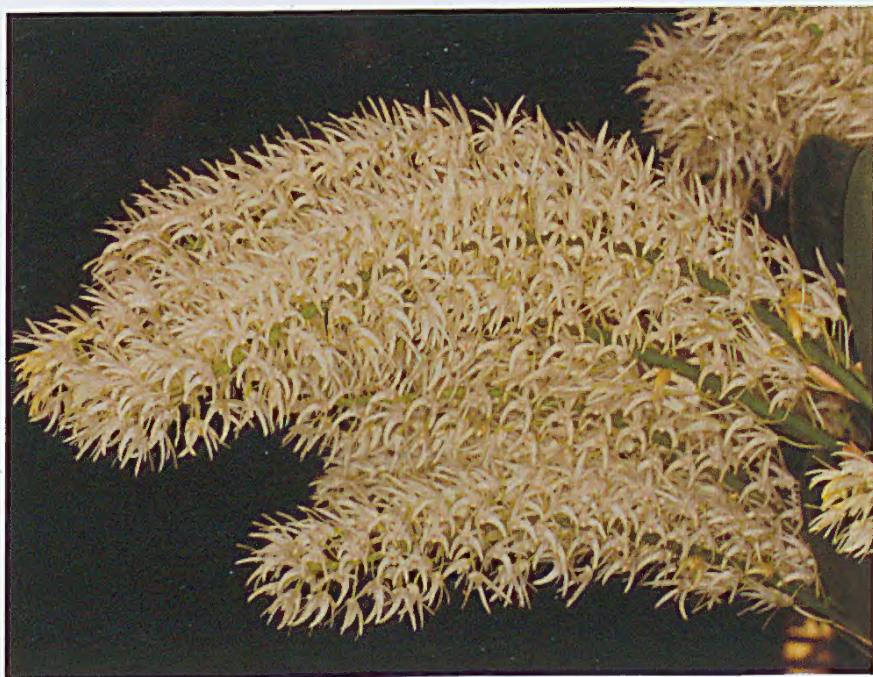
Flower across: 41, vertical 52

Petal : 28L 3W

Sepal : 26L 8W

Dorsal : 35L 7W

Labellum: 13L 6W



#230 *Dendrobium* Bronze Belle 'Deejee' HCC/ANOS 2015 (QLD)

Points: 77.70

Owner: Groffen, Dave

Date :2015-Aug-22

Event: Kabi Group Show

Photos by: Jon Cara

Number of flowers 82, buds 17,
inflorescences 31

Measurements in mm:

Flower across: 35, vertical 25

Petal : 22L 6W

Sepal : 19L 5W

Dorsal : 21L 4W

Labellum: 22L 7W



fuliginosum 50% *mortii* 25% *striolatum* 25%

#231 *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* 'Snowdrift' ACC/ANOS 2015 (QLD)

Points: 77.50

Owner: Cedarvale Orchids

Date :2015-Aug-22

Event: Kabi Group Show

Photos by: Jon Cara

Number of flowers: 3,585,
buds 11, inflorescences 31

Measurements in mm:

Flower across: 20, vertical 27

Petal : 19L 3W

Sepal : 18L 6W

Dorsal : 24L 5W

Labellum: 8L 3W



Directory of ANOS Groups (and Associated Societies)

NEW SOUTH WALES

- **ANOS Central Coast:** PO Box 3010, Erina NSW 2250 - (02) 4340 55157 2nd Wednesday each month, 8pm. Narara Community Centre, 2 Pandala Rd, Narara 2250
- **ANOS Far North Coast Inc.:** PO Box 949, Ballina NSW 2478 - (02) 6686 66303 3rd Saturday each month (except December), 2pm. C.W.A. Room, River Street, Ballina.
- **ANOS Illawarra:** 2 Wilford St, 2 Wilford St, Corrimal NSW 2518 – (02) 4284 8308 2nd Tuesday each month, 7pm. Old Court House, Woollongong.
- **ANOS Macarthur and District:** 43 Strickland Cres., Ashcroft NSW 2168 – (02) 4681 8589 3rd Thursday each month, 8pm. Birriwa Community Hall, Fitzpatrick Rd, Mt Annan.
- **ANOS Mid-North Coast:** 69 The Lakes Way, Forester NSW 2428 - (02) 6554 9733 3rd Sunday each month, 12 noon, followed by BBQ. Contact secretary for location - Taree or Wauchope
- **ANOS Newcastle:** PO Box 4021, Rathmines NSW 2283 – (02) 4975 3729 4th Thursday each month, 7.30pm. Elmore Vale Community Centre, Croudance St, Elmore Vale.
- **ANOS Sydney Inc.:** 9 Alicia St, Glenwood NSW 2768 3rd Friday each month, 8pm. Senior Citizens Hall, B.H. Community Centre, Conie Ave, Baulkham Hills.
- **ANOS Warringah Inc.:** PO Box 421, Forestville NSW 2087 - (02) 9981 2525 3rd Tuesday each month, 8pm. Community Hall, Starkey St, Forestville

QUEENSLAND

- **ANOS Beenleigh Inc.:** PO Box 1130, Beenleigh QLD 4207 - (07) 3805 1973 1st Thursday each month, 7.30pm. Showground Hall, James St, Beenleigh
- **ANOS Kabi Inc.:** PO Box 424, Aspley QLD 4034 - (07) 3359 5752 2nd Tuesday all months except January, 7.30pm. Bald Hills Memorial Hall, 2126 Gympie Rd, Bald Hills.
- **ANOS Mackay and District:** 24 Barton St, Mackay, QLD - (07) 4952 2186 2nd Thursday each month, Andergrove Community Centre, Celeber Drive, Andergrove.
- **ANOS Townsville Inc.:** 92 Curie St, Wulguru QLD 4811 - (07) 4778 4311 1st Tuesday monthly (excl. Jan.) 8pm Townsville O.S. Hall, Joe Kirwan Pk, cnr Bamford Lane & Charles St, Townsville
- **Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc.** 106 Umbiram Rd, Wyreema QLD 4352 1st Friday each month, 7.30pm. Lutheran Church Hall, cnr West and Alderley Sts, Toowoomba.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- **Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.:** PO Box 565 Unley SA 5061 - (08) 8261 1550 4th Tuesday each month, 8pm. St Matthew's Hall, 67 Bridge St, Kensington

VICTORIA

- **ANOS Geelong Inc.:** 2 Cooper St, Melton South VIC 3338 - (03) 9743 6040 2nd Wednesday each month, 7.30pm. Uniting Church Hall, Yarra St, Geelong
- **ANOS Victoria Inc.:** PO Box 308, Boronia VIC 3155 - (03) 9387 2771 1st Friday each month, 8pm. Toorak Uniting Church Hall, , 603 Toorak Rd, Toorak
- **ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Inc.:** PO Box 169, Bayswater VIC 3153 4th Wednesday each month (excl. Dec. & Jan.), 7.30pm. Montrose Primary School, Leith Rd, Montrose 3765

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- **ANOS Western Australia Inc.:** 27 Maidment Parade, Dalyellup WA 6230 - 04 1990 1335 2nd Monday each month, 8pm. Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise Rd, Wilson

NEW ZEALAND

- **ANOS New Zealand Native Orchid Group** 42 Titiro Moanna Rd, Korokoro, Lower Hutt 5012



Dendrobium speciosum var. *grandiflorum* 'Will's Gold' Photo. Bill Dobson



Dendrobium speciosum var. *grandiflorum* 'Beranghi Gold' Photo. Bill Dobson